

**CALVARY UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**



Traditional Worship  
Service  
1st Sunday of Advent  
11:00 a.m.  
Dec 3, 2017

Advent is a season of waiting. During Advent, we are waiting for something to come into the world, something to be born for us and in us. It is an expectant waiting, and it requires not will, but willingness -- a willingness to receive the new, the unexpected. It requires a decision to be open to the ways God will be at work in our lives.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements (Please sign the attendance pad and pass it to your neighbor.) Welcome to worship this morning. We extend a special welcome to all visitors. We hope you feel the warmth of Christ's love as we worship together.

\*Passing the Peace of Christ

\*Call to Worship

In every season of life,

**God is always with us, even when we believe otherwise.**

In this season of waiting,

**Jesus reminds us that Bethlehem is the beginning of our discipleship, not the end of the journey.**

In this season of Advent anticipation and hope, the Spirit opens our ears to the songs of the angels.

\*Opening Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

UMH #211

vs. 1-4

Lighting The First Candle Of The Advent Wreath

Diana & Tom Newton

Choral Response

“Light the Advent Candle”

TFWS 2090 vs. 1

(\*Congregation, please stand as able)

Prayer of Confession ‘Advent - Clear the way’

God of surprises you call us from the narrowness of our traditions to new ways of being church, from the captivities of our culture to creative witness for justice,

from the smallness of our horizons to the bigness of your vision.

**Clear the way in us, your people, that we might call others to freedom and renewed faith.**

Jesus, wounded healer, you call us from preoccupation with our own histories and hurts to daily tasks of peacemaking, from privilege to pilgrimage, from insularity to inclusive community.

**Clear the way in us, your people, that we might call others to wholeness and integrity.**

Holy, transforming Spirit, you call us from fear to faithfulness, from clutter to clarity, from a desire to control to deeper trust, from the refusal to love to a readiness to risk.

**Clear the way in us, your people, that we might all know the beauty and power and danger of the gospel.**

Words of Assurance

Wake up! Get ready! You are called and chosen to receive the One whom God sends! Out of God’s great love, you have been chosen. Be ready! The time is now! **AMEN!**

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

\*Hymn of Preparation      “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”      UMH #196

Gospel Lesson      Mark 13:24-37

Sermon      Wait, Watch, Stay Alert      Rev. Deb Scott

Offering

Offertory

\*Response      “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”      UMH #95

*(words on next page)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Words by Thomas Ken, public domain

**\*Offering Prayer:**

**Gracious and loving God, these gifts we offer are our response to the light which came into the world that first Christmas. Help us in this Advent season to allow that light to shine through us, so that the dark areas of people's lives life can be pierced by Christ's love. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

Sacrament of the Last Supper (see last page)

Invitation

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Receiving:

**Dear Jesus of Advent,**

**You remain a sacred mystery to us.**

**You have brought Good News for all the people  
and we will not be afraid, for you are here.**

**We are hungry for your love  
which surpasses all our understanding;  
we are thirsty for your spirit that never runs dry.**

**In this meal, you nourish our souls,  
feed our minds, quench our deepest longings and  
forgive our transgressions,  
that we may glorify you every day of our lives. Amen**

\*Closing Hymn

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

UMH #211 vs 5-7

\*Benediction - Be on guard!

**We do not know when Christ will return.**

Be alert!

**Our hearts will be open to everyone we meet.**

Be on guard! Be alert!

**We will welcome each person as if they are the Christ.**

\*Sung Response

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

UMH #204

Postlude

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Now, in this holy season of Advent, God comes to be with you.

**God comes to be with you as well.**

As we begin our journey to Bethlehem, let us open our hearts to God.

**For God will fill them with strength and courage for the journey.**

Let us join our voices in singing praise to God.

**We will lift glad songs of joy to the One who is coming to us.**

When you were tired of waiting,  
God-of-the-first-moment,  
you tore open chaos,  
so creation might flow unimpeded:  
puppies quivering in falling snow,  
ice for skating forming on ponds,  
giraffes stretching their necks for snacks.  
All these fresh and glorious wonders  
were crafted for those in your image,  
so we might live in your joy forever,  
but we chose to be doorkeepers  
for sin, waiting for death to appear.  
Prophets came, so we might hear you  
and see you at work in our midst,  
yet, we turned a deaf ear to them,  
refusing to notice you.  
So you came down to us  
in Jesus, your Child of life,  
simply to save us.  
With those who try never to turn away,  
and those who call on your name,  
we sing your praises this day:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who comes to us.**

**All creation gives thanks to you, always.  
Glory to you in the highest!**

Blessed is the One who gathers us to you.  
Glory to you in the highest!  
In your holiness, you could have stood apart  
from us,  
God of compassion and hope,  
but in your love, you came to us  
to be one of us in Jesus.  
When we struggle in despair's poverty,  
he enriches us with your grace.  
When we are weakened by fear,  
he strengthens us with your hope.

When we think our lives are empty,  
he fills us with everything we need.

When death thought it  
had lulled him to sleep,  
he kept alert, waiting  
for your resurrection love  
to gather him up  
and bring him to new life.

With those who are always alert,  
and with those who are drowsy from waiting,  
we proclaim that mystery which is our faith:

**Christ died, giving his life as he called to you;**

**Christ was raised, resurrection love shining the way;**

**Christ will come, to gather us from every time and place.**

Remembering that we are all your people,  
you pour out your Spirit upon us  
and the gifts prepared for this Feast.  
You came to earth in Jesus  
and now we find you in the broken bread  
which gives us the strength  
to be your hope to those in sadness,  
to be your light to those in shadows,  
to be your justice to the oppressed.  
Your life was poured out for us in Jesus,  
and now we find your grace in the cup  
which gives us the spirit  
to be your healing to the broken,  
to be your family to the lonely,  
to be your love to those who are ignored.  
And when all time is ended,  
gather us with our sisters and brothers  
from every time and every place  
around the table you have prepared for us,  
as we sing our joyful praises to you,  
God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

Calvary United Methodist Church  
403 South Main Street  
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771  
301-829-0358 [www.calvary-mtairy.org](http://www.calvary-mtairy.org)

