

December 2022 Worship Guide

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

LIGHT *Light*



I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

JOHN 8:12

Advent Worship

Worship November 27 - First Sunday in Advent

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 2:1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:36-44

Lighting the Advent Candle

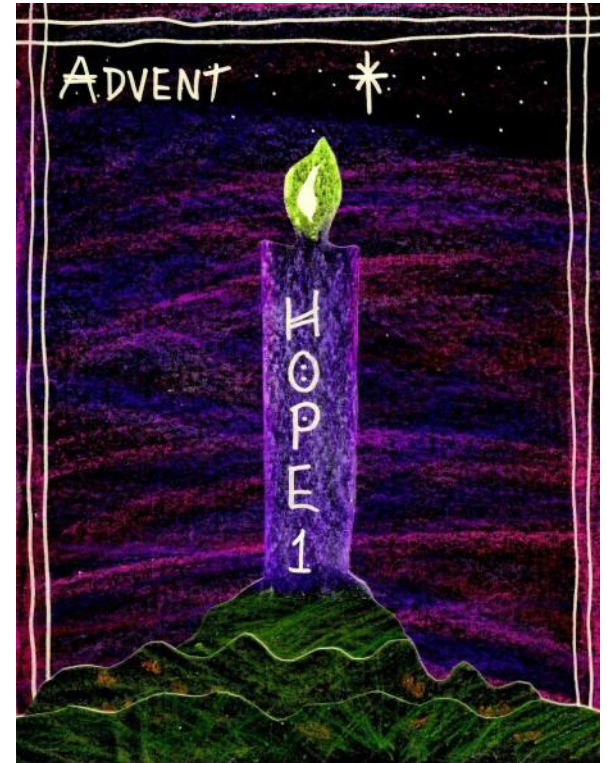
Up to Restoration

Reader One: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Reader Two: We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kingdom to come.

Reader One: "Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths'"

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.



Prayer of Confession

Lord of all times, we come into your presence asking your forgiveness. We have failed to live as people of the present. We have wasted our moments, wanting the future now, seeing our dreams as the answer to today's problems. Rather than seeing your blessing in each day, we have looked backward to glory days that seem glorious only in their passing. Open our eyes to our mission at hand. Open our ears to your message to us today, that we might share in bringing the good news of your salvation to the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of peace and justice, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit working to bring forth the day that Isaiah saw in his heart when swords are pounded into plowshares. Bless these gifts we give this morning, may they be used to make human hearts ready for peace and for the reign of your Son. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

Advent Worship

Worship December 4 - Second Sunday in Advent

Scriptures to read and meditate on

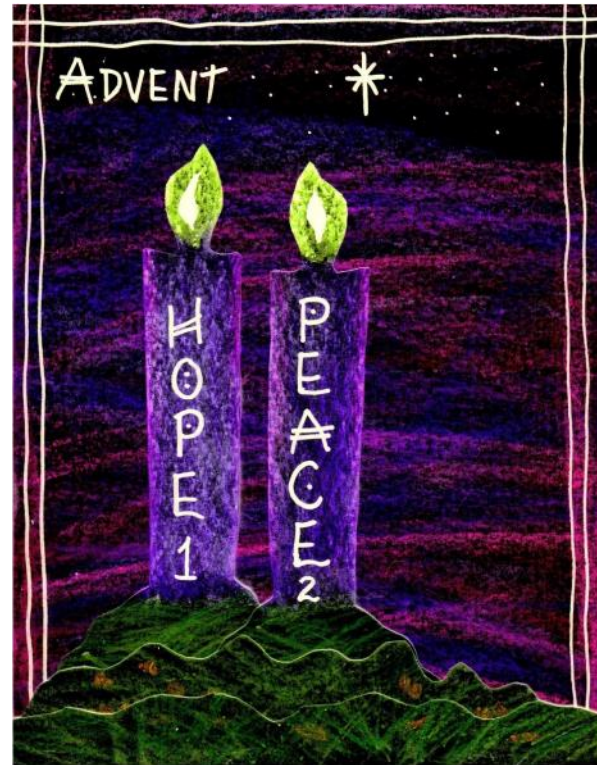
Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Mt 3:1-12

Lighting the Advent Candle

Stand as a Signal

Reader One: "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious".

Reader Two: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.



Reader One: "In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near." And "bear fruit worthy of repentance".

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

Prayer of Confession

God of hope and peace, when our faith is rooted deeply in you, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness. But often our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, the source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord of our life, the path to you is straight, yet we waiver in our behavior like the Pharisees and Sadducees. Our hopes and dreams often are self-serving and materialistic. We rush through this season buying gifts that we hope will convey just the right message. However, you invite us to ask ourselves if we are equally as busy preparing messages that proclaim the Good News to a hurting world. Through giving, remind us again, O God, of the baptismal covenant. This Advent, may we proclaim a message that is exemplified by our generosity, our kindness, and our prayers. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Advent Worship

Worship December 11 - Third Sunday in Advent

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 35:1-10; Lk 1:47-55; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Lord's Highway

Reader One: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

Reader One: The Psalmist says "Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord who made heaven and earth who keeps faith who executes justice gives food sets prisoners free, opens eyes, lifts up, watches over, upholds. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!"

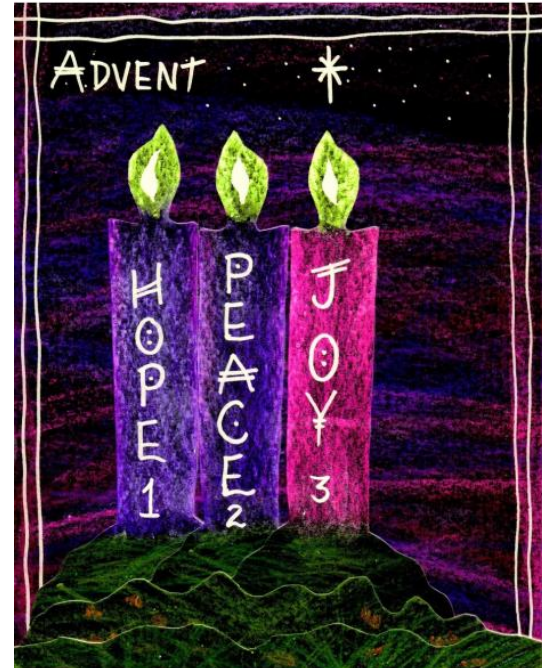
Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.

Prayer of Confession

Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest, and may our lives by you be blest. Come, God-with-us, and free us from the false claims of the empires of this world. We are lonely for you and your peace. Come, Emmanuel, and dwell with us, make us your people indeed, the people through whom you bring love and justice to the world. Come, Jesus, and reign; claim your rightful place in our hearts and in the midst of our community. Plant the seeds of joy among us. Establish God's reign on earth. For we pray as you taught us that God's reign might come in fullness on earth. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Generous God, as we bring our gifts to you this day, we acknowledge that we have been given so much by your goodness, but we have been tight-fisted and slow in giving to help others. In this Advent season of preparation, we ask you to help us live in a new way, to walk a new highway, to set ourselves on the path that leads to a closer walk with Jesus, our example and redeemer. May this be the season when he finds the highways to our hearts prepared for his coming. In the name that is above all others. Amen.



Giving Opportunities during Advent and Christmas



Happy Birthday Jesus

During service on Dec 11, we will take up our annual collection for the Corinthian Club.

All proceeds will be used to bless forgotten individuals at the Valley Mission.

If you cannot attend the service you can either give online, or mark your check "HBJ"



Verona Food Pantry

During December we are collecting paper goods, baby wipes and personal hygiene items for the food pantry. You can drop off items at the church or make a donation,

note your check "VFP".



The Birth of Christ

Alfred Lord Tennyson

The time draws near the birth of Christ;
The moon is hid--the night is still;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist.

Four voices of four hamlets round,
From far and near, on mead and moor,
Swell out and fail, as if a door
Were shut between me and the sound.

Each voice four changes on the wind,
That now dilate and now decrease,
Peace and good-will, good-will and peace,
Peace and good-will to all mankind.

Rise, happy morn! rise, holy morn!
Draw forth the cheerful day from night;
O Father! touch the east, and light
The light that shone when hope was born!

Advent Worship

Worship December 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

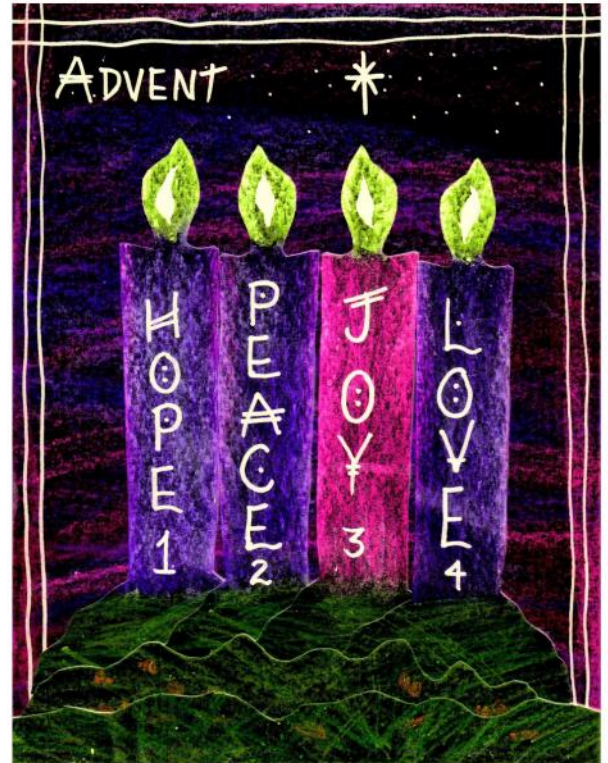
Scriptures to read and meditate on

Genesis 1: 1-15, John 1: 1-5, 14, Isaiah 61: 1-3, Luke 4: 16-21,
Isaiah 40: 1-11, Matthew 3: 1-7, 11, Isaiah 9: 1,2, & 6,
Matthew 4: 12-17, Isaiah 7: 10-14, Matthew 1: 20-23,
Isaiah 42: 5-9, Luke 2: 25-32, Isaiah 35: 1-6. 8a, 10
Matthew 4: 12-17

Lighting the Advent Candle

Give You A Sign

Reader One: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven". But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel".



Reader Two: God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

Reader One: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

The Blessing of the Light

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation: Our God shall change the darkness to light. Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night: to you be praise and glory forever. As darkness falls you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. By the light of Christ, your living Word, dispel the darkness of our hearts that we may walk as children of light and sing your praise throughout the world. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Blessed be God forever.

Advent Worship

Worship December 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

Bidding Prayer

Loving Father, the light of your glorious sunshine has too often been hidden by the clouds of our sin. Your love we have turned to lust, your beauty to ugliness and what you had made possible we have rendered impossible. But in the disgrace we have made of your world your grace still shines. With all its fragile beauty your light remains a constant in our lives, for your love never fails, brightening our days, casting our shadows behind us and guiding us into the new life that you have prepared for us. Lord Jesus Christ, you are God's light in the world, and you have come among us to illumine our path and show us the true and living way into the Father's presence. Once again your flickering light has been placed in our hands to cradle and care for, as once your Virgin Mother cradled you. May the light of the world shining in our hearts be our care and delight as we share your radiance with others. In Christ's light may we be blessed and may we bless others even in the darkest corners of the world. O Holy Spirit of God, kindle your first of love in our hearts. That flame sees through us and reveals us as we are but may it also heal us so that renewed in love and joy and peace, we may shine as Christ's light in the world, and serve his people in the Father's name, for you -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit -- are our God forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. You scatter the shadows before our path, and through your Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth. Use these gifts that we may shine your light in the world, become instruments of your peace, and symbols of your presence. For you are our God forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came amongst us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. Amen.

May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Christmas Eve Worship

Worship December 24

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 9:2-7, Ps 96, Titus 2:11-14, Lk 2:1-20,

Lighting the Advent Candle

Our Christmas Affirmation

Reader One: Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

Reader Two: It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

ALL: We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ, our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.

Reader One: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth. Rejoice, a Savior is born.

ALL: A savior is born, indeed. O come let us adore Him!

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we have failed to be obedient to your Word, we have not done your will, and we have broken your law. For the beauty and joy that this night brings in which we fail to live in our lives and share with others; for the hardness of our hearts for the stranger; for our broken relationship with you and others; for the light you have placed in us that we have extinguished; forgive us and renew your radiant light in us this night through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice. Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world. Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love. Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people. Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age. Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless. Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity. Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day. Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh. Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.

Merry Christmas

Christmas Day Worship

Worship December 25 - First Sunday in Christmas

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-12; Jn 1:1-14

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Newborn King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us stand to join together in singing our Call to Worship as we prepare to come and worship Christ the Newborn King.”
“And now, Good Christian Friends, let us rejoice together with our heart and soul and voice as we sing praise to our God for the Good News of our Savior’s birth.”

Prayer of Confession

“In the bleak midwinter of our lives, Christ came. In the bleak coldness of our hearts, Christ takes up room. We turned our heart away from God, but Christ comes to restore and heal what once was broken. Let us prepare to give our hearts to God as we confess our sins.”

“No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground. Christ has come to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found. Joy to the World, let every heart prepare him room. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

“Now that we have peace with God and know the wonders of His love let us share this peace with one another:”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

“Joyful, all ye nations rise, Let us join the triumph of the skies and the angelic host giving God thanks as we stand and sing together our Prayer of Thanksgiving:”

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

“As we prepare to leave this place, let us remember that this Good News of Christ is announced to the world. May we Go, and tell it on the mountain and everywhere that Jesus Christ is born.”

Sunday Service is now available on a DVD. If you would like a copy delivered to your home, please call the church office and we will take care of getting one to you.

Angels From The Realms of Glory Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

QNTXYPJTGRDTEWARPQNWGSJWTLDLNI
GLORSUMJZTMRELLRARDEWAEELUKPOZ
JNOWGLZEGRIOTYOJTSFTQIOLYNWIWN
SLISRUEFTSKAXCFLIGHTYNRPOMYFIE
GNJDTENGEFRC LJGAWHZGOTBEGQAHDW
XAOYNNNSDNBYAOHXNMYGXNSJDIYBXOB
URRISETIEAIIUYUCWVFM LDOETHAA YMO
TESDTACNDMXEKCVMVKGEFYEIBEBAR
PSGPEADSMIGOA AIERXLSRXEATIAJEN
QAYROI LEEYNPBRHTOIKUSRIJSYTVBK
VNGENASPYDFGBKTXVCSXHG NZTHSYSI
BGEGQSN CMTDJMEAHONATIONSJWITNN
WCYWI IOWWEKRN POLQQXENEEFBAHWOG
XRQAQJTRYPTOOTFSEGASEHO UUTSVIU
FEHMRKAUJEHNLLYCBIRNSEPCKBKASF
KAZGJEOXJUGJOCBZSHEFDQBG BVUDIZ
ETIAPOLNYGIWLCRWOP LLOUJMZTCEVL
FIHPXUONQDTBURIBNAPEAZSLTWEME I
WOAYNPPQABAYBBYYURMXZNIGHTUUID
YNVKLALRKTTYCWEAVXEPODZMUNQNKL
SSKWNZGZLUASKARXLGTLJQSYYUFJDW
CSEPOHNIGNOLXEPGVNIOUSICGAZXAU
ETV FVUCKOC PGSKZSVIFHTXYDNMEAUD
WORSHIPQCANFNTADAHUXRMXTRTZSMM
CRMFS DREHPEHSIAEZCCZHWLVSSYNTY
SYDLGVJZJTI IIMDRRTIDGIFDMCKCSN
GKUEUWKYQMBSDOBI MAHHGQZDLXMUJC
ARZZZVJHF PVHJXJABWAHTPLRAIFZVV
BFXDIDHQHGF SQAWVXATH TQSWETR KXG
VMCBUATHWJGNWXS BFKQKL RCHRTBYCC

Find the **30 bold** words or phrases

Angels From The Realms of Glory
Angels from the *realms* of *glory*,
wing your *flight* o'er all the *earth*;
ye who *sang creation's story*
now *proclaim Messiah's* birth:
Shepherds, in the field *abiding*,
watching o'er your *flocks* by *night*,
God with us is *now residing*;
yonder shines the *infant light*:
Sages, leave your *contemplations*,
brighter *visions beam* afar;
seek the *great Desire* of *nations*;
ye have seen his *natal star*:
Saints, before the *altar bending*,
watching *long in hope* and fear;
suddenly the *Lord, descending*,
in his *temple* shall *appear*:
Come and *worship*, come and worship,
worship *Christ*, the *newborn king*.



Advent Luncheons 2022

Dec 7 - Jim Harris preaching at Christ UMC

Dec 14 - Janet Creef Knott preaching at Cherryvale UMC

Dec 21 - Dale White preaching at Central UMC

Service at 12 noon, with luncheon following



JOIN US AT 6 P.M. FOR

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

WWW.CERRYVALEUMC.COM 540-885-0098