

*HYMN Congregation
**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear
desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine own sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

PROCESSION OF LIGHT, CROSS, BIBLE, CANDLES Acolytes

INVITATION TO ADVENT Rev. Wade Cox
Advent is a season of four weeks, including four Sundays,
before Christmas.
The season proclaims the comings of Christ,
whose birth we prepare to celebrate,
who comes continually in Word and Spirit,
and whose return in final victory we anticipate.
The community of faith is hereby called to prepare
for the coming of Christ during Advent,
through prayer, fasting, and meditation on scripture.
Tonight as we worship and light our wreaths of Advent,
we remember how the Prophets foretold the Hope of a Messiah.
May the light sent from God shine in the darkness
to show us the way of peace, and the road to salvation.

READING OF SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-6, 8* Rev. Wade Cox
"This is the word of God for the people of God."
"Thanks be to God."

ANTHEM *Maria Wanders Through the Thorn* arr. Shirley McRae
German Carol Steve Baucum, clarinet
Maria wanders through the thorn, *Kyrie eleison*.
Maria wanders through the thorn,
that seven years no bloom has borne, Jesus and Maria.

For what beneath her heart doth lie? *Kyrie eleison*.
A little child without a cry, Jesus and Maria.
As with the child she passes near, *Kyrie eleison*.
Red roses on the thorn appear, Jesus and Maria. *Lord, have mercy.

READING OF SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 40:1-11* Rev. Scott Sealy
"This is the word of God for the people of God."
"Thanks be to God."

BLESSING OF WREATH Rev. Don Brooks and Congregation
Almighty God, You are the Light that illumines the world
to show us the way and to guide our paths.
May this Advent wreath remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ;
that we may be filled with hope, peace, love, and joy
as we strive to follow the example of the Lord Jesus.

**May these candles reflect the splendor of Christ,
and may our lives do the same.
In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

ST. MATTHEW'S WREATH LIT FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S CANDLE

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN Congregation
(Begin procession to First Presbyterian during this hymn)
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.
O come thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show.
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*PROCESSION TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(Once all arrive, congregation begins singing at direction of the choir)
Come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, thou root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before Thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

BLESSING OF WREATH Rev. Scott Sealy and Congregation
Almighty God, You are the Light that illumines the world
to show us the way and to guide our paths.
May this Advent wreath remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ;
that we may be filled with hope, peace, love, and joy
as we strive to follow the example of the Lord Jesus.
**May these candles reflect the splendor of Christ,
and may our lives do the same.
In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S WREATH LIT FROM FIRST UMC'S CANDLE

READING OF SCRIPTURE *Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 24* Rev. Scott Sealy
"This is the word of God for the people of God."
"Thanks be to God."

*HYMN Congregation
Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold the king of glory waits.
The King of Kings is drawing near. The Savior of the world is here!
Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.
Redeemer come! I open wide my heart to thee, here, Lord abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel. Thy grace and love in me reveal!

PRAYER Rev. Grace Phelps and Congregation

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again.
Let us pray that we may be ready to welcome Him.
"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" (moment of silence)
That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love;
that the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin;
"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" (moment of silence)
That the sick might find healing from the Lord's hand;
and that the dying might be comforted in your Spirit;
"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" (moment of silence)
That the poor may be clothed, fed, and housed;
"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" (moment of silence)
That the prisoner may be visited, and the lost shown the Way;
"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" (moment of silence)
That the lonely might know your presence through us;
"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" (moment of silence)
That wars will cease, and your justice and peace prevail;
"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" (moment of silence)
That families will be strengthened in Godly love;
"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" (moment of silence)
That any silent prayers of repentance may now be heard;
"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" (moment of silence)
Hear these prayers that we offer in the name of the Lord,
Jesus Christ, who taught us how to pray, by saying,
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Creator of the Stars at Night* arr. Joe Cox
Sarum plainsong Justin Hanson, Pianist
Julie Millen, Soloist

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.
At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must
bow:
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heav'n, shall call you
Lord.
When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but not in
splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.
Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.
In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
You came, O Savior, to set free Your own in glorious liberty.
To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.
Words from 7th century Latin text

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

(Begin procession to First United Methodist during this stanza)

☉ come thou Key of David come and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*PROCESSION TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Once all arrive, congregation begins singing at direction of the choir)

☉ come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here.

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.

From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

BLESSING OF WREATH

Rev. Wade Cox and Congregation

Almighty God, You are the Light that illumines the world
to show us the way and to guide our paths.

May this Advent wreath remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ;
that we may be filled with hope, peace, love, and joy
as we strive to follow the example of the Lord Jesus.

May these candles reflect the splendor of Christ,
and may our lives do the same.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FIRST UMC'S WREATH LIT FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CANDLE

ANTHEM

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

Carl Schalk

As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light,
O star of promise, scatter night, living bright, till shades of fear are
gone.

As the blue expectant hour before the silvering skies,
we long to see your day arise, whole and wise, O lucent Morning Star.

As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease,
may we your healing light release, living peace unto your holy dawn.

Shine your future on this place, enlighten every guest,
that through us steam your holiness, bright and blest, come dawn, O
Sun of grace.

words: Susan Palo Cherwien

*READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-6

Rev. Mark Gregory

"This is the word of God for the people of God."

"Thanks be to God."

SERMON

Rev. Don Brooks

*HYMN

Congregation

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth goodwill to all," from heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old.
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendor fling,
and the whole world send back the song, which now the angels sing.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Grace Phelps

The Lord is coming soon. Come, Lord, and do not tarry.

Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!

Remain watchful for Christ, whose birth in a manger is but a promise
of his coming again in glory.

Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!

And may the blessing of God; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever. Amen!

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Nunc Dimittis

Orlando Gibbons

(sung in memory of Russell Phelps)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to the word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people:

to be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, and is now,
and ever shall be without end. Amen. Words: Luke 2:29-32



Sponsored by:
St. Matthew's Episcopal,
First Presbyterian, & First United Methodist

All are invited for a fellowship meal following worship.
Donations are accepted to cover the cost of the service
and for the Good Samaritan Fund.



8th Annual
Advent
Procession

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2014; 5:30 p.m.

Featuring the Christ Church Chamber Singers
Christ United Methodist Church, Memphis
Mr. Perry Redfearn, Director —Dr. Jane Gamble, Organist

The liturgical color for Advent is **purple**, signifying the **royalty** of Christ.
Blue is also used, signifying the **hope** of the Coming Christ.

(* *An asterisk denotes to please stand as you are able.*)

TOLLING THE CALL TO WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY *Come, Savior of the Nations* Anton Heiller

INTROIT *Light Everlasting* Olaf C. Christiansen
☉ Light everlasting, O Love never failing,
illumine our darkness, and draw us to Thee;
may we from Thy spirit receive inspiration
that brethren together Thy wisdom may see.
Make known to all nations Thy peace and salvation,
and help us, O Father, Thy people to be.

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Mark Gregory and Congregation
A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!
For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.
Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day,
and you shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst.
from Isaiah 40:3, Zechariah 2:10-11