

WORSHIP HANDOUT
Sunday December 4th
Second Sunday of Advent
Communion
Series: From Generation to Generation



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

ADVENT WELCOME From Generation to Generation, vs. 2 only

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE

ANTHEM Emmanuel Is Coming! By Price/Besig (OneLic)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can

alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best.

However, fear can also be harmful.

For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to

make sinful choices in our lives—choices such as building walls or tearing others down.

Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come

before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.” Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Patient God,
you know just how often
we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love.
You know just how often
we allow fear to take the place of logic,
fanning unhealthy fires in our lives.
You know just how often
we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid”
on dusty shelves and in the back of closets,
stubbornly holding onto our own point of view.
Forgive us for giving fear the microphone.
Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection,
which spark and feed so much of our fear,
to recenter us in love.
With hope we pray, amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith,
even when we forget God’s words,
God does not forget us.
Even when we lose our way,
God does not lose us.
Even when we fall short or make mistakes,
God forgives and holds onto us.
We are known, forgiven, and loved.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Away in a Manger, vs. 3 UMH #217

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

UNISON PRAYER

Holy God,
whether it's through
angels or music,
friendships or sermons,
study or nature—
when you speak,
we long to hear it.
In a world as chaotic and broken as ours,
we could use your words of hope and healing.
With gratitude we pray, amen.

TIME OF PRAYER

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 1,2,5,7 (CCLI) UMH #211

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

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.

***UNISON PRAYER**

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives.

LESSON I Isaiah 11:1-10 CEB

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;
a branch will sprout from his roots.

² The Lord's spirit will rest upon him,
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of planning and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

³ He will delight in fearing the Lord.
He won't judge by appearances,
nor decide by hearsay.

⁴ He will judge the needy with righteousness,
and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land.
He will strike the violent with the rod of his mouth;
by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be the belt around his hips,
and faithfulness the belt around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the young lion will feed together,
and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear will graze.
Their young will lie down together,
and a lion will eat straw like an ox.

⁸ A nursing child will play over the snake's hole;
toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.

⁹ They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain.
The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord,
just as the water covers the sea.

May God add a blessing to this reading.

HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (pub dom) UMH #218

*LESSON 2 Nehemiah 2:1-5 & 5:1-13

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "God's Renewed People" Rev. Michael Parisher

*HYMN Here I Am by Anna Strickland, used by permission

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who knows our fears.

We believe in a God who says, "Be not afraid."

**We believe in a God who kicks off her shoes
and wades into the muck of our lives with us.**

**We believe in a God who stitches herself to our heels,
and invites us to dance.**

**We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky
so that we can find our way home,
and who sends us friends with open doors,
so we can find our way to love.**

**We believe in a God who finds us in our fear
and does not leave us alone.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

AFFIRMATION RESPONSE

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE