



[FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH](#)

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DECEMBER 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(The congregation will please stand as able
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

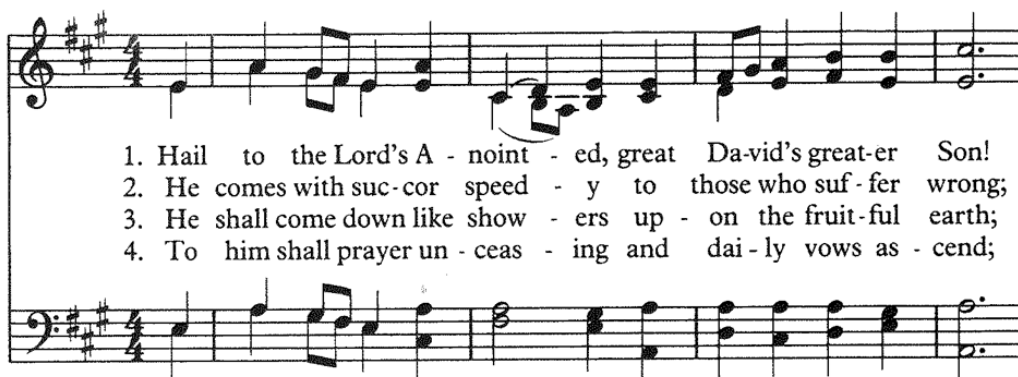
SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

Prelude

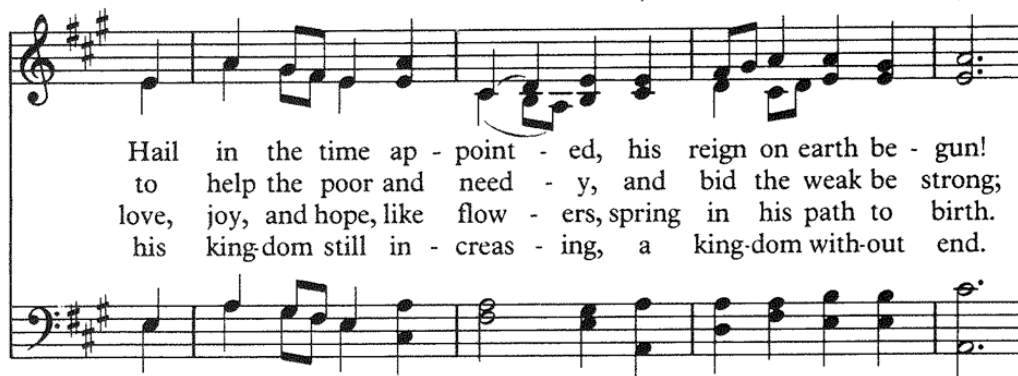
*CALL TO WORSHIP (***)

As streets fill with shoppers
Bright lights and tempting offers
Christmas songs and children's laughter
You lead us along a different path
To a desert river and a Prophetic voice;
A call to repentance
A call to service
A call to immerse ourselves
In living water that will never run dry
A call to prepare a way in our own lives
For the Savior of the world to enter in
To know the touch of tender mercy
And rest in your forgiving love.
For your faithful prophets
And your Living Word
We give you thanks. Amen.

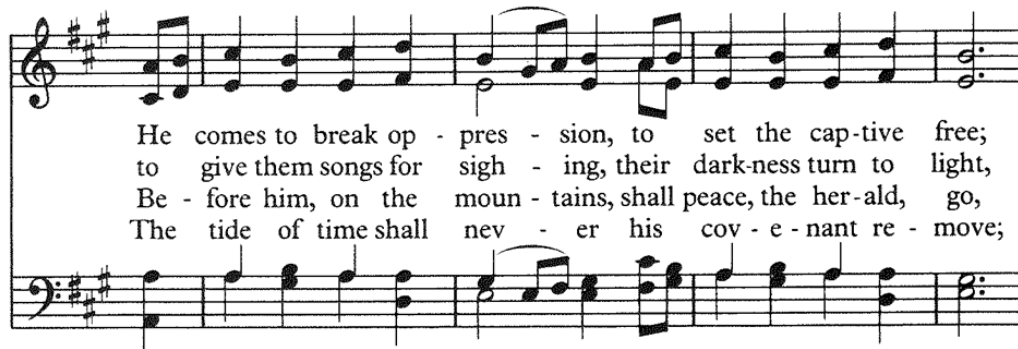
203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed



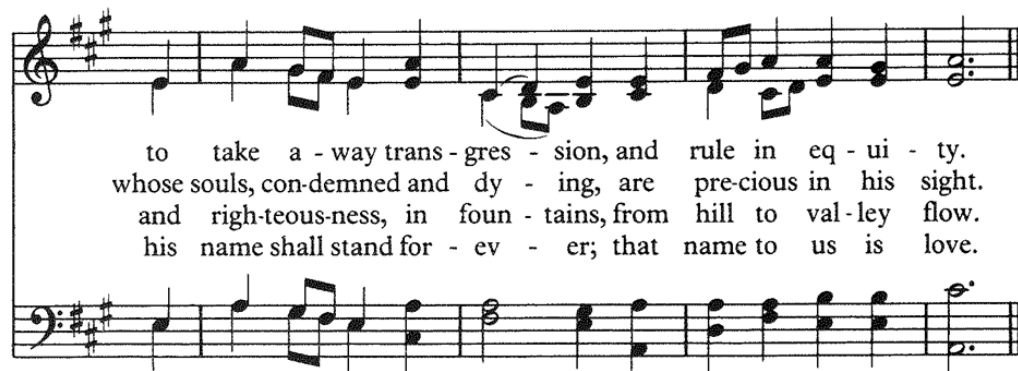
1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!
2. He comes with suc-cor speed - y to those who suf-fer wrong;
3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit-ful earth;
4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
his king-dom still in - creas - ing, a king-dom with-out end.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap-tive free;
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light,
Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her-ald, go,
The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, are pre-cious in his sight.
and righ-teous-ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1821 (Ps. 72)
MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt;
adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

ELLACOMBE
76.76 D

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ()**

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us
to watch for the messenger God will send us,
a messenger who burns
with a passion for God's coming salvation.

*"For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify the descendants of Levi
and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness"*
(Malachi 3:2b-3).

**Congregation: In a world
driven by a passion to maintain the status quo,
we choose to live with a passion for God's peace,
to listen to those who call us to righteousness,
and to submit ourselves to God's grace,
that we might be refined and purified
until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace
as a sign of our commitment
to passionately pursue the work
of making peace in our hearts,
our families, our communities, and throughout the earth
until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

We light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

The Passing of the Peace of Christ

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Malachi 3:1-4](#)

(Pg 778) **

ANTHEM

Never Weather-Beaten Sail

[Thomas Campion](#) / [Charles Wood](#)

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
never tired pilgrim limbs affected slumber more,
Than my weary spirit now longs to fly
out of my troubled breast:

O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of heaven's high Paradise,
Old age deaf's not there our ears nor vapor dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines;
whose beams the Blessed only see:

O come quickly, come quickly,
glorious Lord and raise my soul to Thee!

Words: Thomas Campion (1567-1620) Public Domain; Music: Charles Wood (1866-1926) Public Domain.

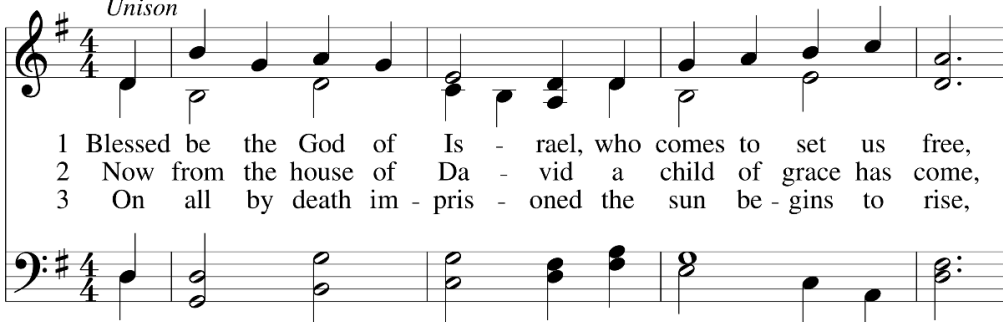
TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL

*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 209


ADVENT

158 Blessed Be the God of Israel

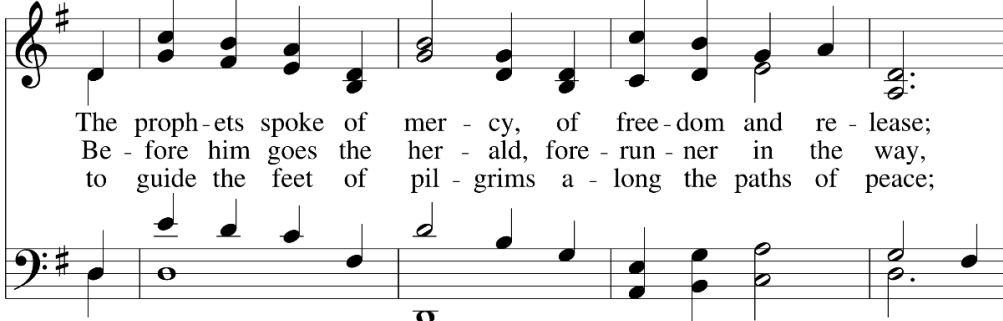
Unison



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

WORDS: Michael Perry (1942-1996)

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson (1933-)

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Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

MERLE'S TUNE

7.6.7.6.D.

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For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

Gloria, Gloria

Canon

1. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 2. in ex - cé - sis De - o!

3. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 4. al - le - lú - ia, al - le - lú - ia!

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, © 1979, 1988, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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SERMON

"God's Prelude"

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

LaGrange

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice
77 77D

1 Wild and lone the proph - et's voice ech - oes
2 "Bear the fruit re - pen - tance sows: lives of
3 With such preach - ing stark and bold John pro -

through the des - ert still, call - ing us to make a
jus - tice, truth, and love. Trust no oth - er claim than
claimed sal - va - tion near, and his time - less warn - ings

choice, bid - ding us to do God's will: "Turn from
those; set your heart on things a - bove. Soon the
hold words of hope to all who hear. So we

sin and be bap - tized; cleanse your heart and mind and
Lord will come in power, burn - ing clean the thresh - ing
dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un -

soul. Quit - ting all the sins you prized, yield your
floor: then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a -
trod, till we come at last like John to be -

life to God's con - trol."
lone shall fill God's store."
hold the Lamb of God.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. Music: David Ashley White © 1996 Selah Publishing Co. Reprinted and recorded with permission under OneLicense.net # A-711296.

PRAYER SONG

Wait for the Lord

Ostinato Chorale

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6:33, 7:7; Taizé Community, 1984
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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Invitation to Prayer:

Leader: "The Lord be with you "

People: "And also with you..."

[The Lord's Prayer](#)

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG *(from above)*

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY

Doxology

For Advent

Em G C D7 G D G C G
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em
here_____ be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

When Prophets Come

1. When pro - phets come and speak the Word, our
2. Re - pen - tance calls for hum - ble hearts re -
3. Your cov - e - nant, O Lord, re - store with
4. With gra - ti - tude we now pre - pare to

spir - its wake and hope is stirred. The cov - e - nant of
ceiv - ing all that grace im - parts. Sal - va - tion calls for
light and life for - ev - er - more. Your e - qui - ty, O
greet, O Lord, the love you share. This birth re - veals, to

gra - cious love pre - pares the way for us to move.
re - newed ways that wel - come joy, and faith dis - plays.
Lord, in - crease, and guide us in the way of peace.
all who see, a fore - taste of e - ter - ni - ty!

WORDS: F. Richard Garland, 2009 (Mal. 3:1-4, Lk. 3:1-6,
Lk. 1:-68-79, Phil. 1:3-11)

CANONBURY
LM

MUSIC: Adapt. from Robert Schumann, 1839

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A Hymn for the Second Sunday in Advent, Year C
Alternate tune, HURSLEY

*Benediction

Voluntary

Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist: Gayle Richards

Video and Sound Engineer: Brogan Meehan

Cover Image: Eyck, Jan van, 1390-1440. **John the Baptist, Ghent Altarpiece**, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56708> [retrieved December 3, 2024].
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***Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at unfoldinglight.com & Discipleship Ministries online resources.

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Looking Ahead

Readings for December 15, 2024

The Third Sunday in Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 / Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7 / Luke 3:7-18

Christmas Eve

*Lessons and Carols
Candlelight Service*

December 24 at 7 pm



You're invited to
Celebrate
the Birth of Jesus
at FUMC