

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Tell the timid to take heart.

P: The Lord our God will come!

L: We wait for the word of the Lord as we wait for the rains.

P: And our God shall come down upon us like gentle dew.

L: The hills and the mountains will be singing praise to God.

P: Every tree in the forest will be clapping its hands. The Lord will come and rule for ever. Alleluia.

† HYMN *Angels from the Realms of Glory* UMH #220

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy, the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ 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 he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into

pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!
CHILDREN'S TIME

† HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH #196

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 24:36-44

³³ "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

SERMON *"Keep Learning"* Rev. David Magruder

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

PROCLAMATION OF FAITH *A Modern Affirmation* UMH #885

† HYMN *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations* UMH #569

† BENEDICTION



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



CHRISTMAS
EVE

