



# UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

November 30, 2008  
9:25 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent  
Liturgical Color: Blue

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent is a time of waiting. We eagerly wait for Christmas. Advent also invites the church to participate in the world's waiting for a savior, waiting for God, waiting for the long anticipated and hoped for fulfillment of all that God intends for the creation and for the human family. This morning let us wait with anticipation and hope for what God is going to do next.

*The asterisk (\*) designates when the congregation will please stand.*

*Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.*

*Worshippers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.*

**Bold print** is read or sung by the congregation.

## **WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP**

### THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*You are invited to sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pads.*

*When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back so that all may note those worshipping today.*

*Cards are available in the pew for those desiring to request prayer or praise*

*for specific needs, concerns and joys. Please place the card in the offering plate during the offering.*

### THE PRELUDE

*"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

setting by Jay Rouse

## **WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP**

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ!

**All:** **We have come to experience God's grace in our worship and in our lives!**

### \*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

*The congregation stands with the first note of the chimes.*

*The lighted candles on the altar symbolize the presence of God's Holy Spirit.*

*The Holy Bible is facing the congregation as a reminder that God's Word is open and available to all.*

## **WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD**

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**"I Saw Three Ships"**

*Musical Interlude*

### Grace United Methodist Church

#### Ministers

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

#### Pastors

Stephen A. Beutler                      Chris Roberts                      Larry Newberg

#### Our Missionaries

Rev. Jeff Newton, Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministries

Dr. Dennis Marke, Medical Missionary, Kissy, Sierra Leone

Rev. Ken Vance, Missionary, Ndola, Town Center, Kafakumba Pastor's School, Africa

#### Specialized Ministries

Randy Manning, Director of Music                      Barbara Hobbs, Pianist/Organist

Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director                      Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager

Debra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse                      Phill Montgomery, Counselor

Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider                      Brandy Dodd, Childcare Provider

Tina Browning, Childcare Provider

Chuck Hefley, Church Administrator                      T.J. Knowland, Youth Director

Our Greeters today are Larry & Norma Raber and Valerie Cunningham.

The Acolyte is Jacob White.

Lighting the Advent Candle today is Gerry Smith.

See Insert

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come ...in the evening, or at midnight, or at dawn. Keep awake. (Mark 13:24-26, 32, 33, 35, 37)

Deep within the ancient catacombs are drawings of a ship riding through troubled waters. This ship had the cross emblazoned upon its sail. As a symbol of the church, the ship reminds us that in spite of persecutions from without, and heresy within, the church of Christ and those faithful to her will reach their heavenly home.

And so we watch, and wait, and stay alert, waiting again for the coming of Jesus. And we light a single candle in preparation for that glorious day.

(Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.)

...And even if the sun should grow dark

...even if the moon refuses to shine

...even if the stars should fall from the sky ...

...we will have Jesus, the Light of the World, to shine brightly in our hearts, lighting our way.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Moments of Silent Prayer

*Those desiring to come to the altar for a time of intercessory prayer are welcome to come and kneel or stand.*

*All are invited to spend these moments in silent prayer seated at your pew.*

The Pastoral Prayer

The 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, forever. Amen.**

THE ANTHEM

"Be Born in Me"

*During the playing of the hymn, "Jesus Loves Me" children, preschool through Grade 2, are invited to attend Children's Church in the Multi-Purpose Room, lower level. An adult will meet the children at the sanctuary exit to escort our little ones.*

Altar Choir  
arr. by Jay Rouse

## GOSPELAIRES

"I'll Meet You in the Morning"

Albert Brumley

## WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

### THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Revelation 21:1-6

### THE PROCLAMATION

Pastor Chris Roberts

### CAN'T WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS

## WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

### OFFERING GOD OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

*If you are visiting this morning, you are our guest. If Grace U.M. Church is your home, remember that the biblical expectation is that you will give your tithe to your church. May we all remember that giving to God in response to His great love is the most celebrative moment of corporate worship. Today's loose coin offering is dedicated to CAM.*

The Giving of our Tithes and Offering

The Offertory

"I Saw Three Ships"

\*The Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

To the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

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

setting by Anna Laura Page

### \*HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST

**"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

Hymn 195

### \*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

*The Living Flame on the altar reminds us that we must carry the message of God's grace and love out from this sanctuary into the world.*

### \*THE BENEDICTION

### \*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

Altar Choir  
Peter Lutkin

### THE POSTLUDE

"Allegro vivace e marcato"

Edward Grieg