



# UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

November 29, 2009  
9:25 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent  
Liturgical Color: Blue

At Christmas we join with the herald angels singing, “Glory to the newborn King!” Epiphany bids us behold the light shining in the darkness, about which we sing, “O Morning Star, how fair and bright thou beamest forth in truth and light!” So awesome is this story that one has to share the “good news and great joy” upon the mountain—for the Messiah has come! Such is God’s advent among us, however, that we can never fully grasp the mystery of “Emmanuel,” so we must continue to remember and to experience anew, year upon year, the permanent crisis of light in the midst of the world’s darkness and turmoil. Welcome to Advent—the season where light will dispel the darkness one candle at a time.

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

Theme from “Organ Partita on ‘I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light’”  
setting by John Behnke

## **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.

## Grace United Methodist Church

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

### Ministers

Rev. Stephen A. Beutler      Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring      Rev. 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

Barbara Hobbs, Music Ministries      T.J. Knowland, Youth Director  
Amanda Kelly, Children’s Ministry      Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director  
Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager      Debbra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse  
Phill Montgomery, Counselor      Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider  
Brandy Dodd, Childcare Provider      Amy Lovegrove, Childcare Provider  
Hannah Arend, Christian Education Intern

Our Greeters today are Millt & Helen Brown and Betty Corn.  
Today’s Acolyte is Delaney White.  
Fellowship Time will be hosted by John & Mary Lou Snead and Mel Hobbs.  
The Liturgist today is Susan Fiasche.  
Lighting the Advent Candle today is Dick & Judie Emy.

## WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#### **“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

*Musical Interlude*

Hymn No. 213

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

Leader: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined . . . For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, unexpected liberator of the people, vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, a new name for God.

**People: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.**

Leader: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

(The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.)

### 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

#### **“The Promise Fulfilled”**

Vesper Handbell Choir  
Hart Morris

*During the singing of the hymn, “Jesus Loves Me” children, preschool through Grade 2, are invited to attend Children’s Church in the Chapel. An adult will meet the children at the sanctuary exit to escort our little ones to the Chapel.*

## WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

### THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 19:11-16

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### THE PROCLAMATION

Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring

**“SMASH MOUTH JESUS”**

## 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

Cantabile from “Organ Partita on ‘I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light’”  
setting by John Behnke

\*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.**

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

#### **“Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

*The altar of this church is open to you....come.*

*Come to witness, come to repent, come to pray.*

Hymn No. 327

### \*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 POSTLUDE

Fantasia from “Organ Partita on ‘I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light’”  
setting by John Behnke