

*THE HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST
“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

*The altar of this church is open to you...come.
Come to witness, come to repent, come to pray.*

Hymn No. 216

*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

Postlude on “Truro”

Charles Callahan

December 6, 2009
9:25 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color: Blue



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

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.*

Grace United Methodist Church

Ministers

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

Pastors

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

Today’s Acolyte is Courtney Mitts.

Fellowship Time will be hosted by the Young Adult Sunday School Class and Mel Hobbs.
Lighting the Advent Candle today are Phyllis & Larry Grant.

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

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

Chamber Ensemble
arr. By Charles Rose

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn No. 211

Musical Interlude

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: “See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. *“The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.”*

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? *“For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.”*

“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.”

Christmas is intended to be a transforming event, not a lovely interlude in business as usual. What we do in Advent in preparation for Christmas will be our means of getting ready for a new way of looking at life — a new way of living.

People: **The Prophet Malachi speaks of a messenger; one who will prepare the way of the Lord; one who reminds us of the covenant of God; one who refines and purifies us in faithfulness.**

How then do we prepare to be transformed by the coming of the Lord? By allowing the light of hope to awaken our spirits: by making room for the Lord to write the covenant on our hearts; by living in gratitude for what we receive in the Lord. If we prepare ourselves by renewing our covenant with God, then we will be truly transformed as Christ comes again into our lives.

(The first and second candle on the Advent wreath are lit.)

Leader: The light of hope has awakened our spirits. We light a second candle to bring light to every darkness, and to guide us in the way of peace. With gratitude for your light, O God, we will prepare to welcome a new birth of your love.

Song of preparation for Moments of Silent Prayer

Sanctuary

(To be sung 2X)

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.**

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”

Altar Choir
Russell Nagy

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

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Romans 15:4-13

THE PROCLAMATION

“GOD’S OTHER NAME”

Pastor Steve Beutler

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

“Light One Candle to Watch for the Messiah”

*The Chorus and Prayer of Dedication

Wayne L. Wold

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.