

\*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

**"Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"** vs 1,2,4

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

Hymn No. 234

\*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 BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"People, Look East"

Bernard Hemmerle

THE POSTLUDE

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

setting by Nancy & Randall Faber

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

Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director

Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager

Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider

Hannah Arend, Christian Education Intern

TJ Knowland, Youth Director

Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager

Debbra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse

Brandy Dodd, Childcare Provider

Amy Lovegrove, Childcare Provider

Amanda Kelly, Children's Ministry

Debbra Long, Volunteer Nurse

Phill Montgomery, Counselor

Amy Lovegrove, Childcare Provider

Our Greeter is Betty Corn.

Today's Acolyte is Zach Rodgers.

Fellowship Time will be hosted by the Allelon Sunday School Class and Mel Hobbs.

Lighting the Advent Candles are James, Megan, Joey and Andy McConnell.

The red rose on the Altar is in honor of the birth of Maurice Byram Wright (Reece) to Maurice & Kelly Wright

On Mon., December 7, grandson of Ron & Melissa Byram.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

December 20, 2009  
9:25 a.m.

4th 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

"Lamb of God"

setting by Mark Hayes

**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

**“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

*Musical Interlude*

Hymn No. 196

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.” Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the mighty one has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.*

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”*  
(Luke 1:47-55)

One cannot escape the prophetic vision in the season of Advent. We see it in the selections from the Old Testament, and we encounter it in Mary’s Song of Rejoicing. In this birth, God is intent on changing the priorities of the world:

...God looks with favor upon the lowly.  
... God scatters the proud in the imaginations of their hearts  
...God brings the powerful down from their thrones  
...God sends the rich away empty.

**People: Where do our lives encounter this prophetic vision?**

**Are we lowly servants upon whom God looks with favor?**

**Does our pride sometimes interfere with what God seeks to accomplish through us?**

**Do we sometimes let our need for power and control interfere with God’s work?**

**Are we sometimes rich in things and poor in soul?**

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things! Holy is God’s Name! The Light of the World is coming.

(The first, second and third candles on the Advent wreath are lit.)

God’s mercy endures from generation to generation for those who are in awe of God.

**People: We see the light of God shining over the world. We light a fourth candle in anticipation of the wondrous birth.**

(The fourth candle on the Advent wreath is lit.)

Song of preparation for Moments of Silent Prayer

*“Light the Advent Candle”*

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.**

A CELEBRATION OF THE BEGINNING OF

THE COMMISSIONING PROCESS TOWARDS PASTORAL MINISTRY

Stan Rebber

THE ANTHEM

*“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”*

Kathleen Thomerson/Benjamin Harlan

Altar Choir

**I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.**

**When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.**

**In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*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

John 1:29-34

Matthew 11:2-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PROCLAMATION

Pastor Steve Beutler

**“HAVE YOU CAUGHT THE LAMB FLU VIRUS?”**

## 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

*“Emmanuel”*

setting by Joel Raney