



1st Sunday of Advent

**WHITNEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

November 29, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Christina Thompson

WELCOME

Welcome to worship today. I am Rev. Christina Thompson and I am pastor here at Whitney UMC. Today we begin the season of Advent, these four weeks that prepare our hearts for Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child. This Christ Child is the light of world who has come down into our world to bring us hope.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE In this season of Advent as we wait the coming of the Christ child, I invite you to light your candle as a reminder that Christ is coming as the light of the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of waiting, of longing,
of looking for you to come into our world

We are seeking light

In our own lives

We are seeking light

In our neighborhoods

We are seeking light

In our families

We are seeking light

In our work

We are seeking light

In Grace

We are seeking light

In our nation

We are seeking light

In our world

We are seeking light

In the longings of our hearts

We are seeking light

Seek and you shall find

Knock and the door will be opened

Ask and it will be given to you

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world

May we have eyes to see you

And ears to hear you

Come into our world today

Amen.

~ from the website of [Grace Church in Ealing, London](http://www.freshworship.org/). <http://www.freshworship.org/>

ADVENT WREATH

Gardner Family

Lighting the Advent Wreath is part of our tradition to help us count the Sundays before Christmas. We light one candle for each Sunday in Advent. It is also part of our church tradition to have families light the candles. We will continue with this tradition even as we are online.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT *Read Isaiah 60:1-3*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE

Reader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

People: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

OPENING SONG *Six Ways to Sunday (Band)*

O Come, O Come Emmanuel #211 v. 1, 2, 7

Verse 1

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus

Rejoice, rejoice
Emmanuel shall come to thee
O Israel

Verse 2

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go

Chorus

Verse 7

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind

From dust Thou brought us forth to life
Deliver us from earthly strife

Chorus

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OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,
We wait filled with hope,
Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.
We wait anticipating your peace,
Believing that one day it will fill our world.
We wait embracing your love,
May we reach out to share it with our neighbours.
We wait with joy,
Bubbling us in expectation of your birth.
Lord we wait,
Come soon and fill us with your life.

~ written by Christine Sine (2012), and posted
on GodSpace. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week/>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God-with-us we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead we lash out against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until your tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus name we pray. Amen
Hear these words of forgiveness.

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, brings us light and strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the one for whom we wait.

INVITATION TO NEXT WEEK

I invite you to join us next week as we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent, preparing our hearts for Christmas. We are using the Theme Light of the World and next week we will look at peace.

After worship, you are invited to join us fellowship time. The link to join us is in the email you received with the links to this service. There are also instructions on this screen. We will gather about 10:45 am.

You are also invited to join us on our Facebook Group Whitney United Methodist church group to chat about the service. You can join the conversation anytime.

Also remember that there are many ways to connect with us even as we are physically distancing.

Also remember that on our radio program Reach out and Trust which is broadcast on KBXL 94.1 FM on Sunday morning at 7:30 am and 11:30 am.

May God be with us until we meet again

Offertory prayer and Sending Forth reprinted with permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to all on earth

Verse 3

How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

SENDING FORTH

Beware.
Keep alert.
Keep awake.
God is doing awesome things we do not expect.
And Christ is coming near with great
power and glory,
and with tenderness.

PASSING THE PEACE

Note this is slightly different during Advent

May the Peace of the coming Christ be with you
And also with you

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

Rev. Christina

*Light of the world,
you stepped down into darkness like a nightlight.*

SONG

Six Ways to Sunday (Band)
Here I am to Worship 3177

Verse 1

Light of the World You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You,

Chorus

Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to
me.

Verse 2

King of all days, and so highly exalted, Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly you came to the Earth you created,
All for love's sake became poor.

Chorus

Bridge

I'll never know how much it cost, to see my sin upon that cross (x3)

Chorus

So, here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.

CCLI Song # 3266032

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PASTORAL PRAYER

Into our troubles and weaknesses,
Into the barren places of our souls, Come Lord,
**Come down, come in, come among us
and make us whole.**

Into the war torn and the refugee,
Into those who live in conflict, Come Lord,
**Come down, come in, come among us
and make us whole.**

Into the homeless and the unemployed,
Into those who feel abandoned, Come Lord,
**Come down, come in, come among us
and make us whole.**

Into the sick and the disabled,
Into those with COVID and with cancer,
and those that we name in our hearts Come, Lord
**Come down, come in, come among us
and make us whole.**

Into the poor and the starving,
Into those who are oppressed or abused, Come Lord
**Come down, come in, come among us
and make us whole.**

Into the lives of loved ones,
Into those from whom we are estranged, Come Lord,
**Come down, come in, come among us
and make us whole.**

Into our joys and celebrations,
Into our work and our achievements, Come, Lord
**Come down, come in, come among us
and make us whole.**

In your holy name we pray. Amen.

~ written by Christine Sine on Godspace <http://godspace-msa.com/>. It is part of a longer iturgy for Advent which can be viewed here: <http://godspace-msa.com/2015/11/29/liturgy-for-the-first-sunday-of-advent/>

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dewey Knowles

OFFERING

God has enriched us in every way—in speech, knowledge, and spiritual gifts.

From the fellowship of Jesus Christ, we are sent out to share with thanksgiving what we have received.

The ways to give are there on your screen.
Let us pray over the offering that will be collected

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory.

Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

Andy Maddox

O little Town of Bethlehem 230 v. 1, 2, 3

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Lewis Henry Redner | Phillips Brooks
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Verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep
The angels keep their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together