

St. Timothys United Methodist Church
3220 Terrace Drive
319-266-0464
<http://www.sttims-umc.org/>



November 30, 2008 – 10:15 am
First Sunday of Advent

(Large print bulletins and hymnals and hearing aid devices are available. A nursery is provided for children younger than First Grade. Ask an usher to help you.)

Gathering

Prelude *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* (Tune: Stuttgart) Broughton
 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Tune: Hyfrydol) Thygerson

(We invite you to use the prelude as a time for centering on God, the Holy, the Spirit, the Living Jesus. Please be considerate of others for whom this is a quiet time.)

Greeting and Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candle

Responsively

Leader: Today we light the first Advent candle, and we begin to wait. (The first Advent candle is lighted.) We are looking forward to something special. What can it be? When is it going to happen? When we light this candle, we watch, wait, and hope.

All: This candle reminds us that the prophet Isaiah was longing for God's presence too.

L: It reminds us that the people in the early church were also longing for God's presence.

All: This candle is a symbol for our own longing for God to be with us. We wait in hope for God to surprise us and break into our lives.

***Opening Hymn** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* Red hymnal, 196

Unison Prayer

Loving God, this Advent season calls us to watch, wait, and hope for new things. Help us to notice the signs around us of your presence, and of your coming to be, that we might be surprised and renewed, and know that you are with us.

Praying

Call to Prayer "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Red hymnal, 211

Sharing Joys and Concerns

(After each joy or concern, we sing, "**O, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace.**")

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (sing responsively) Black hymnal, 2278

***Passing the Peace**

Listening to the Word

Advent Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Red hymnal, 211 (1,2,6,7)

The Christian Gospel Mark 13:24-37 Pew Bible, 50

Anthem "Soon and Very Soon" – Crouch/arr. Schrader Sax Soloist

Sermon "Be Alert! Stay Awake! Watch!" Dick Clark

Sermon Response "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Red hymnal, 211 (1)

Responding to the Word

Announcements and Opportunities

Offertory Sentence

"In this Advent season, let us prepare our hearts once again to receive Christ anew. Let us make an offering to God as a testimony of grace we have received from God."
-Seasons of the Spirit

Offertory "Setting on Veni Emmanuel" Sewell

***Dedication Song** "Seek Ye First" Red hymnal, 405

***Prayer of Dedication**

Accept these gifts we bring to you, O God, as tokens of our love for you. With them we rededicate ourselves to the ministry of proclaiming your name in our world. In our words, our actions, and our daily living, we seek to make known that there is no God like you in all the earth. Amen.

Advent AIDS Litany

Leader: Open our eyes to your world, O God, that we may see the suffering of those who live with AIDS, those who are sick, those who care for them, those who love them – all who live with AIDS.

People: Open our eyes that we may see the weeping of your world.

L: The tiniest infant born infected, the sex trade worker paid to go without protection, the tourist who thinks nothing can happen, the person who receives a blood transfusion to save their life, the IV drug user needing a fix more than a future, the couple in love who ignore the realities of the present day – all these are your people, O God.

P: Open our hearts that we may embrace all your children.

L: In every land we hear the cries of those who have lost people they loved. Their arms ache to hold them once again. They have been fed the bread of tears until they can stomach no more.

P: Open our ears to hear the cries of those who mourn.

L: In the poorest parts of the earth there are few resources for those who are ill. The most saving medicines are the most difficult to give freely, the places with the largest number of sick seem to have the fewest medical personnel.

P: Open our mouths to cry for justice. Open our hands to share.

L: We long for the ravages of AIDS and all other disasters human-made or earth-born to be gone. We cry, "Tear open the heavens and come down, O God. Restore us once again." But sometimes it feels like you do not tear the heavens open. You ask us to look upon the earth torn by disease and despair, fear and forgetfulness. You remind us we are all your people.

P: Come, break through our fears, break down our barriers, break open our lives.

L: Tear open our hearts, O God,

P: that we may care for our brothers and sisters of every age and every land.

Going Forth

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| *Closing Song | <i>"O Day of God, Draw Nigh"</i> | Red hymnal, 730 |
| *Blessing | | |
| *Blessing Response | <i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"</i> | Red hymnal, 211 (4) |
| *Postlude | <i>"Savior of the Nations, Come"</i> | Manz |

* = The Congregation is invited to stand