

**St. Timothys United Methodist Church – Cedar Falls, Iowa**  
**November 29, 2009 – 10:15 am**  
**The 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**

*"Shepherd's Hymn"*

Vivian Vevenger

(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: Companion God, we begin our Advent journey anew.

**All: Illuminate for us a shining path to you.**

(Light the first candle.)

L: Holy One, we light this candle, a flicker of starlight, cradled in a forever circle of green, a sign of belonging, of growth, of possibility, of awe and wonder.

**All: May it be a reminder of your divine spark, kindling new beginnings within us. May hope be born among us.**

L: We wait in hope with all your people through the ages and into tomorrow.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Song** *Tune of "Away in a Manger"*

Red hymnal 217

**Light one Advent candle and whisper a prayer**

**For hope for a world often lost in despair.**

**Light one Advent candle and wait for the morn**

**When new birth will happen and light will be born.**

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**Unison Prayer**

**Lord God, who comes alongside us and lives within us, we ask that your love will unite us into a community of grace and discovery. Take from us anything that would sap our strength for togetherness. Free us from negative thoughts and put away from us the barriers that sometimes keep us apart. Refresh in us the dream of a better world and put before us new possibilities for service. Renew in us your compassion, so that we may be people**

**Advent Attitudes**

**with a loving purpose. We come together to be your alleluia in a troubled world. Amen.**

-Paula Clifford, Christian Aid, London (World AIDS Day resources)

## **Praying**

**Call to Prayer**                      *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*                      Red hymnal 211  
***"O, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace,  
make strong the weak and heal the human race;  
The hungry feed, the needy clothe,  
that by example we will learn to love.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel."***  
Words by Cynthia A. Douglas, From Alternatives for Simple Living: 800-821-6153.

## **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**

**The Hebrew Scriptures**                      Jeremiah 33:14-16                      Pew Bible 738

**Scripture Song**                      *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*                      Red hymnal 216

**The Christian Gospel**                      Luke 21:25-36                      Pew Bible 85

**Anthem**                      *"Chanson de Matin"* – Elgar                      Carol Morgan, flute

**Sermon**                      "Advent Attitudes"                      Dick Clark

**Sermon Response**                      *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*                      Red hymnal 211(1)  
***"O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."***

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## **Responding to the Word**

## **Opportunities and Announcements**

## Offertory Sentence

Liturgist

On a trip to Mozambique in 2002, I visited a clinic for children with AIDS. I met a nine year old girl who had AIDS and was hospitalized for a secondary, yet serious infection (not uncommon). She was quite severely emaciated with a hollow look in her eyes. Her mom was sitting next to her, and we began talking. Her mom painfully told me that her daughter kept asking her "What have I done wrong to be sick?" The mom was devastated. She told her daughter that it was not her daughter's fault knowing that she (the mom) had passed on the HIV virus through birth. What shame the mom expressed. That tender moment of sharing between a mother and daughter was transforming – one act of loving kindness calmed her daughter down for at least a while. We're all called to practice love. The world counts on our leadership to do nothing less. It's not too late. (Linda Bales, General Board of Church & Society)

## Offertory

"Chant Du Berger"

Gustav Merkel

## \*Dedication Song

"Seek Ye First"

Red hymnal 405

## \*Prayer of Dedication

Unison

***God of promise,  
you have not left anyone outside your love  
nor willed anyone to destruction.  
You raise up branches of righteousness to bring healing to your people  
and prophets of justice to proclaim your salvation.  
Take the gifts we offer you and bless them  
so that your redemption draws near  
to all those in need of your care,  
to all those in need of our care.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

-Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (World AIDS Day resources)

## 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**

**\*Closing Song**                      *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*                      Red hymnal 196

**\*Blessing**

**\*Blessing Response**                      *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*                      Red hymnal 211(4)

***"O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;  
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."***

**\*Postlude**                                      *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*                                      Martin Luther

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