

**St. Timothys United Methodist Church – Cedar Falls, Iowa**  
**December 6, 2009 – 10:15 am**  
**The Second 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** "The First Noel" – arr. Clark Folke Ensemble

(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 and second candles.)

L: Holy One, we light these candles, 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 they be a reminder of your divine spark, kindling new beginnings within us. May peace be born among us.**

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

**\*Advent Candle Song** Tune of "Away in a Manger" Red hymnal 217

**Light two Advent candles, experience the glow**

**Of peace that exceeds any peace you may know.**

**Light two Advent candles and wait for the morn**

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

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**Unison Prayer**

**Ever-present God, today we pray especially that you would come to us through the relationships we share across the generations. Come to us through our children, our parents, our grandparents, and all those we nurture and who nurture us. Open us to your word that is somewhere present for all who listen. Help us to keep your Loving Spirit foremost in our hearts that we may share with all creation. Amen.**

*The Word from the Fringe*

## 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**

#### **\*Passing the Peace**

### Listening to the Word

<b>Canticle of Zechariah</b>	<i>"Benedictus"</i>	Red hymnal 208
<b>The Christian Gospel</b>	Luke 3:1-6	Pew Bible 60
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>"Silent Night"</i> – Arr. Clark	St. Tims Folke Ensemble
<b>Sermon</b>	"The Word from the Fringe"	Dick Clark
<b>Sermon Response</b>	<i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"</i>	Red hymnal 211(1)

### Responding to the Word

### **Opportunities and Announcements**

#### **Offertory Sentence**

Liturgist

"God sending...prophets is one thing; our listening to them is another. John the Baptist announced the claims of God's kingdom upon our lives as ultimate, which means that the claims of race, gender, culture, money and political or religious allegiance are at best, penultimate. With his announcement John counsels us to repent of anything and everything that might hinder ultimate allegiance to Jesus. (God) invites us to make our crooked ways straight, to flatten all hilly terrain, and to prepare space for the birth of the Messiah into our own lives." *-Journey with Jesus, 2006*

<b>Offertory</b>	<i>"Brightest and Best"</i> – arr. Clark	Folke Ensemble
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### **\*Dedication Song**

Tune: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

***"Oh, 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!"***

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Unison

***As Zechariah blessed and dedicated the child John, so we offer and dedicate ourselves and prepare the children of our community to serve through lives of discipleship. Take who we are and what we have and use it all in the service of your reign of peace and justice and love. Through Jesus our Christ. Amen.***

## **Celebrating Holy Communion**

### **The Invitation to Communion**

This is the Lord's Table. We are all invited without exception because Jesus, our Lord, invites us all without exception. The Spirit calls us to gather, to come to this place and meet the Living Jesus. Come with open hands and open hearts. Come now and take your place at this table where Jesus is Host.

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Red hymnal 15-16

### **The Lord's Prayer**

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

### **\*Sharing the Bread and Cup**

(Everyone is invited to come forward, receive the bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Please bring a Communion offering for our St. Tims Hunger Fund, which helps provide food, utilities, and rent for needy families.)

### **Unison Prayer**

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.***

## Going Forth

**\*Closing Song**            "*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*"            Black hymnal 2098

**\*Blessing**

**\*Postlude**            "*Brightest and Best*" – Arr. Clark    St. Tims Folke Ensemble  
                              "*In Excelsis Deo*" – Arr. Clark

\* = The Congregation is invited to stand  
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