



2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

"FRONT STEPS OR SIDE DOOR"

CELEBRATION WORSHIP

COMMUNION SUNDAY

December 5, 2010

8:30 & 11:00 am

Ministers

All Members of the Congregation

Senior Pastor

Rev. Matt Gaston

Associate Pastor

Rev. Lisa Marshall

Associate Pastor

Rev. Jessica Wright

Associate Pastor

Rev. Deana Ferguson

Intern / Christian Education

Cassie Newton

SHINE GOD'S LOVE INTO EVERY LIFE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 S. Locust Street

Denton, Texas • 940.382.5478

www.fumc-denton.com

GATHER

Welcome

John Priddy

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Rev. Lisa Marshall and Dan Riddle

Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord!

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All: *Prepare Ye the Way* (sung)

Reader: Today we light two candles. The first candle is for Christ as our Hope. We light this second candle as a symbol of Christ the Way.

Reader: John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4)

All: **May the Word – Jesus Christ – sent from God, lead us out of our bitterness and resentments and into the way of love.**

All: *Prepare Ye the Way* (sung)

Prelude

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Rickerts

Credo Choir

Brian Schmidt, conductor; Donna Meinecke, accompanist

If you have prayers of joy or concern to share with the congregation and the Prayer Ministry Team, please write those on a blue Prayers of the People card located in the pew rack in front of you. These cards will be picked up during the first hymn.

Introit

The Friendly Beasts

French carol

Cherub Children's Choir; Jett Cheek, director

***Call to Worship** Scott & Blake Cooper (8:30); Shelly & Collin Renfro (11:00)

One: A chill in the air

Many: **Damp penetrates to the bone.**

One: Wind rattles bare tree branches

Many: **An eerie silence.**

One: A longing filled with hope and dread.

Many: **An uneasy peace.**

One: Then, from the farthest corners of the earth comes a song.

Many: **From the deepest part of our souls comes a hope,**

One: So we gather in this holy season to open our hearts to the One who fills the silence with song.

Many: **And makes the darkness bright.**

***Hymn 384**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*The Prayers of the People will be picked up during the singing of this hymn.
The Children are invited to the front for Children's Time.*

WE PROCLAIM

A Time for Our Children

Rev. Jessica Wright

Response

Just a Baby
Chorister Children's Choir

Allison Gilliam

Sacrament of Baptism (8:30)

Caiden Miller Focke and Ryker Scott Focke

Hymn 632

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Confession

Rev. Deana Ferguson

O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your herald's urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. Before the advent of the One who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ. We ask this through the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
(Sacramentary, U.S.A. 20th Century)

Words of Assurance

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Many: **In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

Our Offering

Midnight Clear
Challenger Children's Choir

Sears, Willis, Huff

Please register your attendance on the registration pads. After you have completed your information, pass it down the row, and then back up the row so that everyone can see who is sitting nearby.

The baskets at the front are placed to receive an offering for Interfaith Ministries of Denton, providing temporary emergency financial assistance to residents of northern Denton County.

***Doxology**

the people singing

***This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.***

Scripture

Psalm 122
Page 571 in the Old Testament of your pew Bible.

Message

"Front Door or Side Steps" Rev. Matt Gaston

Response to the Word

One: Visit your family, O God. Give us love, joy, and your peace. Purify our thoughts, words, and deeds, so that when Jesus Christ comes, he will find a place prepared for his coming.

Many: **O heavenly Father, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of your Son, fill our hearts and lives with praise. Grant that we may be just and merciful, ready to help in the needs of our neighbor and conscious of your great love for all the world. Fill the Christian family with your spiritual gifts of forgiveness, patience, mutual love, and unending joy. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WE RESPOND

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

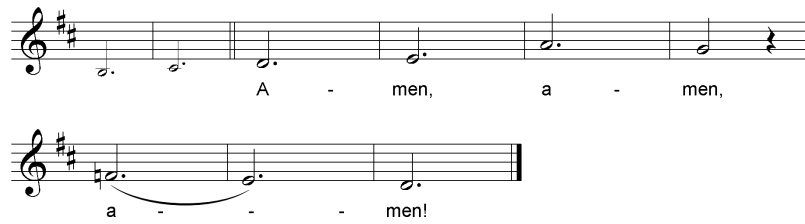
Response 1

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est.
Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na
in the high-est.

Response 2

Christ has died, _____ Christ is
ris - en, Christ will come a - gain! _____

Response 3



Lord's Prayer

the people praying

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.

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

An usher will direct you to the front to receive communion. Please find an open place at the rail where you may kneel or stand. There will be no formal dismissal; you are welcome to remain as long as you like and return to your seat when you are ready. Communion will also be served by intinction, where you may receive the bread and dip it into the cup before partaking. If you prefer to be served in your pew, please tell an usher.

Anthem

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

arr. Taylor Davis

As the congregation shares in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please join in singing the first and last verses of the following hymns: 198 *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*; 242 *Love Came Down at Christmas*; 221 *In the Bleak Midwinter*; 216 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*; 210 *All Earth is Waiting*

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you would like to explore becoming a part of this church family, please come down at the close of the service to express that desire and see one of the pastors who will be happy to guide you in those next steps through our Methodism 101 class.

*Hymn 202

People, Look East

*Blessing

Postlude

The flowers today are in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. W. Claude Castleberry, Claude Jr., Isla Marie Castleberry, Frances Jean Castleberry Lunsford, and Bob Castleberry by the family.

The white rose today is given in loving memory of Bill Gentry.

The acolytes today are Sydney Rollins and Alyson Beard (8:30);
John Fredrickson and Brenden Shipp (11:00).

The banner bearers today are Dan Dickenson and David Steward (8:30);
Samantha Turner and Abigail Higginbotham (11:00).

Childcare is provided for newborns through Pre-K on the 1st Floor
of the East Wing during worship.

Today . . .

Angel Tree angels are still in need of adoption in Miller Center. Cash donations are also welcome. Make checks payable to First UMC-Denton, memo Angel Tree.

Youth Ministry

- 9:40 am Youth Sunday School on the 3rd Floor in the Youth Loft area
3:00- 3:55 pm Youth Band Rehearsal
4:00-5:25 pm Credo Youth Choir for grades 6th-12th, Room 331
5:30-7:30 pm United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) –
Re-creation Night = Play + Worship

This Week . . .

- December 6 Church Conference, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary, for the purpose of approving an operating budget for 2011. All members are welcome.**
- December 7 Youth Disciple Bible Study, 6:00-8:00 pm, Youth Loft.6 Russian Mission Trip Informational Meeting, 7:00 pm, Room 108.**
- December 8 Wednesday Bible Study, noon, Flinn Hall, brown bag lunch,**
Advent Communion Service, 6:30 pm, with message
by Rev. Lisa Marshall.
Prayer & Meditation, 7:15-8:00 pm, Cole Chapel.
Children's Activity in Room 238: Christmas cookies
- December 11 Parents' Shopping Day, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.** Let us entertain your kids while you Christmas shop without them in tow. Cost: \$15/child with a \$35/max per family. Family provides sack lunch; church provides other snacks. Reservations only; no walk-ins please. RSVP reservations to Beth Wilson at bwilson@fumc-denton.com by December 8.

Coming . . .

- December 12 3rd Sunday in Advent**
The Chancel Choir offers a seasonal music selection – *A Day for Dancing* – during the 8:30 & 11:00 am worship services.
- December 15 Advent Communion Service, 6:30 pm, message by Rev. Jessica Wright**
Children's Activity in Room 328: Hot chocolate with Santa
- December 19 4th Sunday in Advent**
- December 22 Advent Communion Service, 6:30 pm, message by Rev. Deana Ferguson.**
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services**
Traditional Candlelight & Communion Services – 3:00, 7:00, 11:00 pm
Family Service for families with young children – 5:00 pm

