

Christ UMC Worship
December 4, 2022

OPENING MUSIC

Johnathan Vest

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aimee Cox

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

sung:

[Fear not, the angels tell us,
yet we still live in fear
of difference that divides us,
of those outside our sphere.

The overcrowded lodgings
evoke our yearly scorn
but would we find the room now
if God were newly born?

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."]

SCRIPTURE	Luke 1:26-45	Jimmy Byrd
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE		Aimee Cox
SCRIPTURE	Luke 1:46-55	Karen Byrd
SERMON		Aimee Cox
RESPONSE	"Zechariah in the Least-Expected Places" <i>Worship Band</i>	Thomas

Written by Ben Thomas.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Paul Bonner

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

[Every notion we have about power, success,
wealth, and achievement,
God takes and tosses out the window.
More importantly, God comes to us,
to upset our notion that we have to save ourselves.
In Jesus, God comes to us,
removing our sin, our failures, our expectations,
so we might have new life.
Please join me as we pray, saying,]

**We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God.
The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule.
The ones you knock off their pedestals,
we admire and emulate.
We are so focused on having more and more,
we risk being sent away empty.**

**Forgive us, Mighty God,
and look with grace upon us.
We would live secure in your love;
we would be the ones of peace for our world,
we would seek to do your will,
as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
in whose name we pray.**

All may offer silent prayers of confession.

Even now—yes, even in this very moment,
 God comes to us,
 bringing hope,
 bringing forgiveness,
 bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

**May we open our hearts to the God who is with us,
 and receive the gifts which have been offered to us.
 Thanks be to God. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

2257 (black)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
 always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
 almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
 You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
 When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained
 steadfast.
 You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign
 God,
 and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day
 when justice shall roll down like waters
 and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
 when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war anymore.
 And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest,
 hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
 the highest, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
 whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.
 You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts
 and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.

You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree.

You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away.

Your own Son came among us as a servant

to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.

He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
 one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
 until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly
 banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy
 Church,
 all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the
 highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

11 (red)

**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.**

**DISMISSAL

Aimee Cox

**BLESSING SONG "The Lord Bless and Keep You"

Strathdee

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**The Lord bless and keep you,
the Lord make his face to shine on you,
and be gracious, gracious.
The Lord bless and keep you,
the Lord lift his countenance on you
and give peace, give you peace.
Shalom, shalom.**

**CLOSING MUSIC

Johnathan Vest

Prayer List

New Prayer Concerns:

Emily Peck and family following the death of her husband Derrick
Sara Cothran
Susan, Chuck, and Claire Shockley and family following the death of Will
Tom Beadles

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

ALL MILITARY DEPLOYED
Marilyn Blumbecks
Janet Buck
Nina Butler
Caregivers and healthcare workers
Robb Castelee
Kendra Cates
Greg Clingman
Dave Darst
Paul and Ellen Davidson (Grammy and Pop)
Doug Davis
Karen Clark and family following the death of her mother, Sue Draper
Paul Duty
Brent Greene
Alan Hall
Scott Heard
The family of George Janson on the sudden death of his wife, Faye on November 21
Adam King
Betty Latture
Jim and Judy Marshall
Karla McVey
Sue Mueller
Chuck Neighbors
Judson Randolph, long-time friend of Dave Hook
Amy Saffell
Seline
Barbara Smith, sister-in-law of Nancy Brown
Lisa Spencer
Kevin Stefano
Tim Stillings
Marjory Thompson
Friends and Family of Debi Tyree following her death
Ukraine
Deana Watson and family following the death of Claude Garrett on Oct 30
John Wigant