

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m.

December 3, 2023

PRELUDE

*“Advent Star”
by Edward Broughton*

INTROIT

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
by Thomas Helmore*

CUMC Adult Choir

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

GREETINGS

One: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The risen Christ is with us.

All: Praise the Lord!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Let us share God’s love and peace with one another.

*HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UMH #196

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord of hosts redeems us when we stray.

All: With a mighty arm, God comes to save us.

One: When God hid his face, we strayed. When God withdrew her presence, we stumbled.

All: God has fed us with the bread of tears and given us tears to drink in full measure.

One: Yet, through his Son, God call us back from the pit and restores our future.

All: God shines upon us with love, that we might be saved.

One: Come! Let us worship.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION

The Clark Family

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come”.

All: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

The first candle of the Advent wreath is lit.

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

“Children’s Message”

Virginia Lorenzi

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

THE GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“How Long, O’ Lord?”

Rev. Sue H. Yun

INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

In Christ, all gifts are welcome, both great and small. Bathed in love, led by compassion, let us share our gifts and offerings with God.

WEEKLY OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“Christmas Communion Song”
by Susan Naylor Callaway*

CUMC Adult Choir

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

You have enriched us in every way, O God, through our faith in Christ Jesus. You have granted us grace and blessed us with every spiritual gift. In gratitude for your many blessings, we offer our tithes and offerings this day. Enrich and bless these gifts, that they may go into the world and help build your kingdom. Amen.

