



**CENTERPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
centerportumc.org  
**ONLINE ADVENT VESPER SERVICE**  
**DECEMBER 10, 2020**

**EMMANUEL - GOD WITH US**

WELCOME AND BREATH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice cries in the wilderness "Prepare the way of the Lord!"  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!  
Let the timid take heart, The Lord our God will come!

OPENING MUSIC

*"Prepare the Way of the Lord"*

Godspell

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Isaiah 60:1-3

(\*candles are lit when asterisks appear)

This is the season of Advent, a time for reflection of our relationship with God, a time of preparation for the coming of Christ our Savior. We relight\* our first Advent candle, representing the hope, the new life, that the little baby Jesus brings for the whole world.

Let us pray. Christ our Advent hope, bare brown trees, etched dark across a winter sky, leaves fallen, rustling, ground hard and cold, remind us to prepare for your coming; remind us to prepare for the time when the soles of your feet will touch the ground, when you will become one of us, to be at one with us. Amen.

HYMN # 203 v. 1, 3, & 5

*"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

United Methodist Hymnal

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers, upon the fruitful earth;  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth:  
Before Him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

O'er every foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never, His covenant remove;  
His Name shall stand forever, His changeless Name of Love.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

GUIDED MEDITATION

"What are You Looking For?"

*Hymn #. 204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" - United Methodist Hymnal*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called, Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called, Emmanuel. (2X)

READING

"A Prayer of Release"

HYMN # 202 (v. 1, 3, & 4)

*"People Look East"*

United Methodist Hymnal

People look east, the time is near, of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch, when night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming, with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL PRAYER (*silently pray*)

Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in peace. Amen.