



Accompaniment Play List and Sermon available on YouTube at

<http://bit.ly/OUMC12-01-2024>

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here – the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

INTROIT

“O Come Let Us Adore Him” (Hymn 234-refrain)

<https://youtu.be/De-ssaUQb80>

O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE



OPENING PRAYER

Righteous one, to you alone we lift our souls;
in you alone we place our trust;
for you alone we wait all day long.
For you are the God of our salvation, abounding
in mercy and steadfast love.

Help us remain alert and watchful for the
coming of your promised one – the one who
comes with power and glory, the one drawing
near to bring our salvation. Amen.

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

“The Apostles’ Creed”

UMH # 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of
heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only
Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he
ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right

hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence
he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

ANTHEM (Suggested)**"All Things New"**https://youtu.be/4_2aX_i4qpM

Big Daddy Weave

SCRIPTURE LESSON**1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 WEB**

⁹ For what thanksgiving can we render again to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sakes before our God, ¹⁰ night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face, and may perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. ¹²

May the Lord make you to increase and abound in love toward one another, and toward all men, even as we also do toward you, ¹³ to the end he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

JOYS & CONCERNS and MORNING PRAYER

God of our Expectation,
We praise you for surely-coming days when you will execute Shalom: love, peace, hope, health, and well-being for the people who walked in darkness.

O God, the days are surely coming when all your promises will be fulfilled to your faithful children. We pray for Your church, O Lord, that we might fulfill our promises to you, and be forgiven for all our failures.

In your time, O Lord, a righteous branch sprang up and you brought justice and righteousness in every land. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, you bring your people safety and comfort. We pray for the sick,

the suffering, and those in distress of any kind that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Your great works of redemption, O God, span the ages and bring hope to all who believe. We pray for those who rejoice this week that they might be filled with joy and gladness.

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, O Lord, and empower us as we prepare to greet our Newborn King.

Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that when your Son Jesus comes among riding on a cloud and with great power and might, we might come to adore him... who taught us to pray...

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.

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
 from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming,
 as those of old have sung.
 It came, a floweret bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
 the Rose I have in mind;
 with Mary we behold it,
 the Virgin Mother kind.
 To show God's love aright,
 she bore to us a Savior,
 when half spent was the night.

3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender
 With sweetness fills the air,
 Dispel in glorious splendor
 The darkness everywhere.
 True man, yet very God,
 From sin and death now save us
 And share our every load

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 21: 25-26 WEB

²⁵ There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and on the earth anxiety of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the waves; ²⁶ men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ But when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near."

²⁹ He told them a parable. "See the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they are already budding, you see it and know by your own selves that the summer is already near. ³¹ Even so you also, when you see these things happening, know that

God's Kingdom is near. ³² Most certainly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things are accomplished. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away.

³⁴ "So be careful, or your hearts will be loaded down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day will come on you suddenly. ³⁵ For it will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the surface of all the earth. ³⁶ Therefore be watchful all the time, praying that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Man."

MESSAGE

"Preparations"

Rev Jim Canody

<https://bit.ly/Sermon12-01-2024>

When I was growing up, the cartoons I watched taught me that dynamite and quicksand were going to be pretty constant concerns in adult life. You don't want to get blown up? Know what TNT stands for, keep an eye on the fuse at all times, and don't let any sparks near the fuse or the Acme TNT box. Don't want to drown in quicksand? Read the signs, watch where you're going, and know where the large branches and/or vines are nearby. Piece of cake.

Yet, in all these cartoon-based life lessons, *no one* warned me about laundry and dishes AND

the oh-so-ordinary things of life. They're relentless! You eat, then you have more dirty dishes to wash. You get dressed in the morning, and by the end of the day, you have more dirty clothes to wash. And I won't specifically delineate all the other oh-so-ordinary things of life. We all know what they are! It's a never-ending cycle! And if you're like me, it took a while to figure out how to prepare for and manage the cycle of laundry and dishes and all the rest, in part because several someones — real and cartoon — taught me life was about

preparing for the extraordinary while living in the drudgery of the ordinary. As we begin the cycle of the liturgical year once again ... **yes! this is New Years day in the church** ... as we begin this cycle anew ... you may be feeling the relentlessness of it all. The pressure to make Advent/Christmas feel special. The crunch of finishing up end-of-year paperwork and giving campaigns. The busyness of extra rehearsals, gatherings, parties. Just as our society enters a season of ramping up activity as we head into Christmas and winter break, the liturgical calendar slows us down. **Wait**, the calendar says. **Don't rush in! Prepare!**

And as amazing as the Christ child's coming is, we're not preparing for dynamite or quicksand. Our preparations to greet Jesus happen in the oh-so-ordinary things of life.

This season can still surprise us. We might think we are ready. We might have been checking the calendar. We might have had plans underway for some months now. And still, when the first Sunday of Advent rolls around, we have to deal with the shock. "It can't possibly be time for this again," we think. But let's be honest with ourselves; it isn't simply a matter of calendar neglect. It is that this season of anticipation comes in the midst of life ... in all its fullness and its messiness. We are wrapped up in so many things, getting so many things done, so many things right, that we can be surprised that the very thing we are planning for actually comes.

This First Sunday **OF** Advent – and let's pay attention to the preposition; it's "**of**," not "**in**." Advent is not something we endure; it is something we become, something that we are. We are people who live in anticipation, who live in hope. It is the essence of our being. So, on this First Sunday of Advent, we are heeding the call to **pay attention**. Our life is a life of fullness and joy, but it is also a preparation for even more fullness. In our Wesleyan tradition, we call that fullness sanctification, or even riskier, we say we are moving on to perfection.

We prepare for eternity, for kin-dom, for perfection by living attentively. We might not really be shocked by the arrival of this season, but we are deeply startled by our continuing need to be reminded that we are called, and we want to live in hope. Worship, then, in this season is an aid to preparation, a reminder to look up, **to get ready**.

There's a saying in the Black community that's endured for decades and featured in several rap songs: "If you stay ready, you don't have to get ready." One Monday afternoon, sixteen-year-old Anthony Alexander Jr. had just finished playing basketball in a local park. He was resting on a park bench, but he remained ready. Not for another game, but to save a life. That was the moment when a young girl approached him in tears, telling Anthony that her friend was drowning in the water. Several of her friends had fallen through the ice into a nearby pond. Anthony immediately sprang into action. After quickly dialing 911, he looked around for anything that could help these children in distress. His chosen tool? A broken tree branch.

Anthony said, "The first kid, a boy, grabbed the stick and I pulled him out. But I couldn't reach the other two." Leaving nothing to chance, he walked out onto the ice and got in. He said, "It was freezing, but it wasn't too bad because I wasn't in [the water] that long. I didn't really have time to think about it." By the time first responders arrived, Anthony had already saved two of the three children, and was closing in on the third. He was later lauded as a hero by Sgt. Patrick Kilroy of the Collingdale Police Department, who arrived on the scene shortly thereafter. Kilroy said, "If he hadn't called 911 and hadn't taken action, this might have had a very different and tragic outcome. He's one quick-thinking kid." God uses those who are available and prepared to make an impact. You don't have to be a professional, or even an adult. You just have to be yielded, ready, and willing.

You don't have to get ready if you stay ready! SO ... Ready or Not: Advent, but why do the assigned scriptures for this First Sunday of

Advent sound so scary. We are being reminded that the world as we know it isn't the last word. And **while our hearts** long for wholeness, especially for the brokenness in this life; **while our hearts** long for peace, especially in a world dominated by anxiety; **while our hearts** long for fullness and healing, especially in a world dominated by sickness and emptiness, these words from the scriptures, are unsettling as we prepare for a time when we celebrate God's loving gift of salvation.

Here is how Jesus spoke of those days that are coming in our Gospel reading for this week: *"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."* - Luke 21:25-26 NRSV

I'm not sure how you receive this sort of thing on the First Sunday of Advent. Sometimes, I think that folks are expecting to hear the preliminaries of the Christmas story. Maybe an angel announcement, maybe a song of transformation, maybe a dream or a journey or a royal decree. But certainly not people fainting with fear and foreboding. I'm not sure I'm up to foreboding. We just don't forebode much anymore. Do we?

Heck, we've got movies about the end of the world that are impressive in their special effects. And we go to see that for entertainment. So, if Jesus is trying to scare us, he'd better start doing a better job of it.

But then, a second look at those verses implies something different. Maybe it isn't fear that Jesus is trying to instill. Maybe it is something altogether different. Maybe it is the opposite. And what is the opposite of fear? **Hope.** *"Stand up and raise your heads,"* he says to us. Our instinct when things are going badly or when the moment is difficult is to keep our heads down. **I remember in elementary school ... back in the time of what we called the "Cold War" ... every third Wednesday of the month ... 11am ... a Loud Horn would echo through the school yard**

(and in the neighborhood) signifying that it was time to practice our "duck and cover technique". You see ... in case an Atomic Bomb was dropped on Washington DC ... we were instructed to take cover under our school desks ... head down and covered with hands ... because our desks were sure to protect us!

But Jesus tells us to raise our heads, to look up, to trust, to have confidence, to pay attention. Oh, that's a tricky one at any time of the year, but with all the distractions of the holidays, it is even more difficult.

"Pay attention," he says. But I've all these things to accomplish. I've got my lists to fulfill. Places to go, people to see, and things to do.

"Pay attention," he says. But to what? To the end times? No thanks, the folks all wrapped up in that kind of thing seem a little bit ... odd. A little bit out of touch. And frankly, they seem to have their priorities all messed up. If the message is taking care of yourself, stay clean so that you come out well in the end, I'm not really that interested.

"Pay attention," he says. Advent is a multilayered time. There is the remembrance and the desire to recapture the birth of that baby again. We really want to hear that angel song and believe that, if even for a moment, *peace on Earth* is within the realm of possibility. We look back to what has been done for us. But at the same time, the scriptures remind us that there is still a coming on our horizon. We do look for the coming of the kingdom, when *the lion shall lie down with the lamb, when we will beat our swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, when we will study war no more.* There is a Someday out there toward which we lean and for which we hope. Advent is looking forward as well as looking back.

"Pay attention," he says. What if there is one more layer? One more direction, in addition to back and forward? What if there is **"an around"**? **Look around. Look up, look down,** or just look. *"Be on guard so that your hearts aren't weighed down..."* So that you don't miss it; so that you don't miss him. That's the amazing thing about this season: **there are glimpses of the kingdom**

that appear when you least expect it. There are sightings of the Savior in the twinkling of the eyes, in the hesitant thank-yous and the gasps of wonder. In the late-night conversations of scattered family members trying to figure out what might be next, there are prayers of hope and love, an embrace of peace that brings tears to our eyes . . . if we pay attention.

Jeremiah says it simply, *“The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah”* (Jeremiah 33:14 NRSV). In those days, the prophet writes, God will *“execute justice and righteousness in the land”* (v. 15). That would be a surprise, wouldn't it? Justice and righteousness. Almost incomprehensible, almost too much to believe, to hold on to, to prepare for. Almost. That's what Advent asks of us – to believe in

what seems unbelievable; to hold on to what seems beyond our grasp; **and to live, to prepare to live as though it was the way we were going to encounter every day.**

You don't have to get ready if you stay ready! This is why the prophets are a guiding image for this week. **They lived preparation.** They saw what was, and they heard what could be, what should be, and they lived in that tension. They were Advent people before we were. We live a prophetic existence today. We live as a witness to what could be, what is coming. Surely coming. That's our hope; that's our preparation.

“The days are surely coming.” **Like** Life unexpected. **Like** hope unexpected. **Like** justice and righteousness. And it will be to you a joy...through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. AMEN!✠

HYMN UMH #219

“What Child Is This”

<https://youtu.be/nHUgXL4wxy4>

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

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

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

Beloved, go from this place blessed with a
hope that takes root and grows, preparing us

to notice, listen, and join in with God's kin-
dom work among us. Amen.

RESPONSE

“O Come Let Us Adore Him” (UMH#234 refrain)

<https://youtu.be/15fTuB-syHM>

O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

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^{1,5} **O Come Let Us Adore Him**, UMH #234, Text & Music: John F. Wade Translated: Frederick Oakeley © Public Domain

² **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**, UMH #196, Author: Charles Wesley, Composer: Rowland H. Prichard © Public Domain

³ **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**, UMH #216, Authors: Theodore Baker, Gordon Young, Harriet K Spaeth, Michael Praetorius, Tune: Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen, © Words: Public Domain; Music: 1999 Richmond Music Press, Inc.

⁴ **What Child Is This**, UMH # 219 Author: William C. Dix, Music Greensleeves © Public Domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER Birthdays

Ginny Powell (Dec. 15)
David Annis (Dec. 17)
Josh LoFaso (Dec. 20)

Isabella Bergquist (Dec. 28)
Skye Lewis (Dec. 29)

DECEMBER Anniversaries

Tom & Kim Hedge (Dec 2)
Faith & Chuck Park



The Chosen: Bible Study
Thursdays @ 1pm



COAT CLOSET Mission!

We continue to accept cash donations as well as coats, hats, scarves, jackets, and gloves during the year, Please either email us at jre11@verizon.net or call 757.710.1524 to leave a message, to arrange pickup or drop off.

Monetary donations may be sent to Onley UMC, P O Box 216, Onley, VA 23418; please note "coat closet" in the memo section of the check. 2024-2025 Dates:

December 14, January 4, and February 1
from 9am-11am.

Thank you for your dedication to the ministries of Onley UMC! We greatly appreciate your gifts, tithes, and prayers. Your contributions are important to the life and mission of OUMC. **Checks, made payable to OUMC should be mailed to: Onley UMC, P. O. Box 216, Onley, VA 23350**



Thank you for your stewardship



What's happening at Camp Occhohannock on the Bay



Dec 6, 4-8pm Island House Fundraiser

(make reservations & tell them you are participating in the fund raiser for Camp)

January 18, 11am-2pm Polar Duck Dip

Sponsor a "Dipper", Dunk a Celebrity (DS Rev. Givens and Blake Johnson, Island House Restaurant owner) Online Auction, Donate to Auction, Business Sponsorships Available...

Many more ways to participate!



Join us

December 15th

After worship for a covered dish meal to celebrate the Christmas Season together

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Dec. 1 3:00 PM Leadership Zoom Training - Trustees
Dec. 2 7:00 PM Leadership Zoom Training - Lay Leader
Dec. 4 7:00 PM Leadership Zoom Training - SPRC
Dec. 5 7:00 PM Leadership Zoom Training - Finance
Dec. 23-26 District office closed
Jan. 12 1:30 PM District Training – Grace UMC

For more information & to register visit:

<https://bit.ly/2024NovDistrictNews>



THIS SUNDAY (DEC 1)
NO YOUTH GROUP

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: <https://www.onleyumc.org/>
Google Review: <https://g.page/r/CW9SLu50qxK6EBU/review>
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OnleyUMC/>.

YouTube Channel: <http://bit.ly/OUMC-YouTube>
Join our email chain: onleymethodist@gmail.com

OUR PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS from November 24, 2024

- The United States of America, other countries around the world, and our leaders
- War-torn areas including Ukraine, Israel & the Middle East
- Americans serving in the armed forces and in dangerous foreign diplomatic posts.
- Our missionary in Cambodia, Clara Mridula Biswas.
- Persecuted Christians
- The United Methodist Church and The Virginia Annual Conference
- Members in assisted living: Dottie Milliner

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|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Debbie Davis | • Don Bowling | • Linda Nyborg |
| • Johnny Gardner | • Donna (Dot Gardner's Friend) | • Gaye Burkhart |
| • Tommy DeMarino | • Ada Jo Amadeo | • Lois White |
| • Ann & Roger Weinheimer | • Our Country | • Virginia Lively |
| • Dick Jenkins | • Our President | • Ginny Powell |
| • Patsy Gourd | • Diane Nickel | • Al McMath |
| • George McMath | • Rod Drummond | • Janice Canody |
| • E. A. McMath | • Brian Daffin | • Rosilee Lewis |
| • Kathy Kellam | • Jane Drummond | • Elmer Reed |
| • Larry Coleman | • Vernon Brinkley | • Joseph Roddy |
| • Coleman Family | • Nancy Lewis | • Sandy Jones |
| • Camp OOTB (<i>Prayers daily 7:58pm</i>) | • Lynn S. Moon | • Patrica Gall |
| • Jody Cullin | • Eric Bruno | • Pat Drummond |
| • Bobby Wood | • Barry Bruno | • Christopher Smith |
| • Dick (a friend) | • Lou Hall | • Travel Mercies |
| • Dixie Guy | • Chris Matney | • Health Concerns |
| • Tom and Claudia Webb | • Dick and Peggy Travesa | • Unspokens |

† *Special prayers for the family and friends of:*

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • <i>The Rev. Lorenzo Hill</i> | • <i>James Powell</i> | • <i>Irene Adkins</i> |
| • <i>John Downings</i> | • <i>Jean Evans</i> | • <i>Katie Mae Nock Killmon</i> |
| • <i>Jody Hopkins</i> | • <i>Jane Drummond</i> | • <i>Ann (Milliner) Freeman</i> |

Please share your joys and concerns
with Pastor Jim at :
jimcanody@vaumc.org or
call 703-861-2023