

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community

November 29, 2020 - 10:00am - ONLINE WORSHIP

The First Sunday in Advent

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** "Hope of the World" by V. Earle Copes

### Welcome and Announcements

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH #196

**For those who need to see the full music, it is attached at the end of this document  
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| 1) Come, thou long expected Jesus,<br>born to set thy people free;<br>From our fears and sins release us,<br>let us find our rest in thee.<br>Israel's strength and consolation,<br>hope of all the earth thou art;<br>Dear desire of every nation,<br>joy of every longing heart. | 2) Born thy people to deliver,<br>born a child and yet a King,<br>Born to reign in us forever,<br>now thy gracious kingdom bring.<br>By thine own eternal spirit<br>rule in all our hearts alone;<br>By thine all sufficient merit,<br>raise us to thy glorious throne. |
|--|---|

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**The Advent Lighting Prayer:** *(adapted from Derek Weber, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>)*

**O Lord, if ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!**

*Leader: The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down... to make your name known... so that nations might tremble at your presence."*

**So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope. As we light this first candle, be God-with-us, for it is a sign of our hope: hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world; hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to you once more. O Come, O Come Emmanuel. Amen.**

**Prayer Chorus:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 1) UMH #211

*O Come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## Time of Silent Meditation

### Pastoral Prayer lifting Celebrations and Concerns

**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.**

## Living Our Gratitude

♪ *Please continue to support your church family during this time of "social distancing". Enjoy the musical selection as a time to give thanks to God for all with which you have been blessed.*

*Use the QR code to the right or give online here:*

<https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give/>



### Offertory:

*"The Day Is Coming"*

*w/m by Mark A. Miller*

1) The lands in longing call out your name;  
The tongues are different,  
the prayer the same.  
With humble spirits can we believe  
That God is bigger than we conceive?

2) With willing spirits, Lord, let us dare  
To kneel with strangers and join in prayer.  
Grant in your mercy the hope that heals,  
The law of love your Word reveals.  
*Chorus*

### *Chorus:*

*The day is coming, the Lord will move  
With the hand of justice and a heart of love.  
The will of heaven on this earth be done;  
The day is coming; oh, let it come!*

3) A barren wasteland we must reclaim,  
With hearts for bearing each other's pain.  
Grant us the courage to make a place  
To plant tomorrow's seeds of peace.  
*Chorus*

## Children's Message – A special moment with the Pastor just for kids

### Special Music:

*"People, Get Ready"*

*w/m by Curtis Mayfield*

*Robert Miller, Guitar & Vocals*

People get ready, there's a train a comin'  
Don't need no baggage, you just get on board  
All you need is faith  
to hear the diesels hummin'  
You don't need no ticket, just thank the Lord  
So people get ready; there's a train to Jordan  
Picking up passengers from coast to coast  
Faith is key t'open the doors and board 'em  
There's hope for all among the loved the most  
Now there ain't much room  
for the hopeless sinner

Who would hurt all mankind  
just to save his own  
Have pity on those  
whose chances are much thinner  
There's no hiding place  
from the Kingdom's throne  
People get ready, there's a train a comin'  
Don't need no baggage, you just get on board  
All you need is faith  
to hear the diesels hummin'  
You don't need no ticket, just thank the Lord  
You don't need no ticket, just thank the Lord



**WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD**

**\*Closing Hymn:**

*“People, Look East”*

*UMH #202*

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|---|---|
| <p>1) People, look east. The time is near<br/>Of the crowning of the year.<br/>Make your house fair as you are able,<br/>Trim the hearth and set the table.<br/>People, look east and sing today:<br/>Love, the guest, is on the way.</p> <p>2) Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,<br/>One more seed is planted there:<br/>Give up your strength the seed to nourish,<br/>That in course the flower may flourish.<br/>People, look east and sing today:<br/>Love, the rose, is on the way.</p> | <p>3) Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim<br/>One more light the bowl shall brim,<br/>Shining beyond the frosty weather,<br/>Bright as sun and moon together.<br/>People, look east and sing today:<br/>Love, the star, is on the way.</p> <p>4) Angels, announce with shouts of mirth<br/>Him who brings new life to earth.<br/>Set every peak and valley humming<br/>With the word, the Lord is coming.<br/>People, look east and sing today:<br/>Love, the Lord, is on the way.</p> |
|---|---|

**\*Benediction**

*(adapted from Ruth Patterson, <https://www.ministrymatters.com>.)*

**L:** And now return to the world in hope. Stay alert, for we do not know the timing of God’s Kingdom. Be faithful in service, persistent in prayer, hopeful in spirit. Be Advent people looking to discover God in encounters and circumstances, for God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer is with us.

**P: Amen! We go in hope to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!**

**\*Postlude:**

*“This Train (is bound for glory...)”*

*Traditional Spiritual*

**\* You are invited to stand if you are able**

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Organist.....	Bryan Latimers
Bell Choir Director.....	Catherine McMichael
Praise Band Director.....	Lance Coyle
Nursery Supervisors.....	Diane Maturen, Aimee Priem, & Carolyn Rottiers
Audio Visual Technicians.....	Nic Courier, Brian Hatch, Andy Sharrow, Izzy Terhune

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Follow us on Social Media!**

YouTube: **Saginaw First UMC**

Twitter: **FirstUMCofSaginaw**

Instagram: **saginawfumc**

Facebook: **First United Methodist Church of Saginaw**

*Be sure to check in on Facebook! The more of us that do so, the more people learn about who we are!*

### **HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: ?**

**PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Mark Abbe, Connor Ashmall, Ed Babinski, John & Myrna Cammin, Jim Cloud (now at Hoyt Skilled Nursing Facility), Bonnie & Pat Dole, Chris Everett, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Glenn Hinds, Barb Kropp, Jane MacQueen, Walt & Joyce Maltman, Camille Marek, David & Cheryl Marks, Merlyn Mondol, Dick & Sharon Mueller, Dave & Jean Nelson, Ron Perry, Al & Teddy Reichard, Anne Ruffle, Eugenia Shek, and Louise Yeager. Also, please pray for UMCOR and other organizations who are working to alleviate suffering caused by flooding in our area, healing from the Covid-19 Virus, and a way to peace and equality for all people in God's world.

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED** due to rising Covid-19 case numbers in Saginaw County. Though it grieves us to do this, our leadership feels it to be the safest course. We will continue with Confirmation and Baptisms as planned, but only family members may attend in person.

**PLEASE TURN IN YOUR 2021 PLEDGE CARDS.** This helps the Finance Committee put together a realistic budget for the coming year. Pledge online [HERE](#) or on the church website at [www.firstumcsaginaw.org/pledge](http://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/pledge). You can also submit your pledge card either in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or to the main office. You can also mail it in to: Saginaw First UMC, 4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638. You may also give online at [www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give](http://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give). Thank you!

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will take place Sunday, December 13, 2020.**

Please secure for yourself some bread or crackers to use and some grape juice for that day. Pastor Amy will lead us through the experience, and offer instruction as we go along. You can use any kind of bread or cracker (including gluten free) and several varieties of juice. If you need bread and/or grape juice provided to you, we have several members who will drop it off to you at home. To make arrangements, call Pastor Amy at (989) 274- 6363 or email her at [pastoralbt@outlook.com](mailto:pastoralbt@outlook.com).

### **READERS NEEDED to pre-record scripture readings for All Music Sunday and Christmas Eve.**

Pastor Amy is looking for 4-6 adults willing to come in during the week and pre-record a scripture reading for either All-Music Sunday or Christmas Eve. There will only be you and Pastor Amy in the sanctuary, and Pastor Amy will stay at the back (to record) so it should be safe and socially-distanced. Unfortunately, these readings cannot be done from home on your cell-phone – we really do need you to come in. Please contact Pastor Amy at (989) 274- 6363 or email her at [pastoralbt@outlook.com](mailto:pastoralbt@outlook.com) if you can help. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OFFERING** – Because we cannot collect toys and gifts for our backpack children, and because the school social workers have communicated with us that there are several families in financial difficult this holiday season, the Christmas Miracle Offering this year will go to our 48 backpack children. We are hoping to receive enough financial support to provide 48 families with a gift card that will enable them to buy gifts or food for their family at Christmas. These need to be ready to distribute by the week of December 14, so please donate soon and help us make the holiday a little brighter for needy families right here in our own community.



Christmas this year will unfortunately not be the way it's always been before. In this time of Covid-19, there are some traditions we simply cannot honor in traditional ways, but we hope to provide a meaningful experience this season regardless.

Advent begins November 29, and runs through December 6th, 13th, and 20th. We will continue to livestream worship, but have had to suspend in-person worship. Advent Wreath lighting will be incorporated this year into the opening prayer.

Pastor Amy has found a **Children's Christmas Pageant** entitled, "Christmas Around the World". Families can "adopt" a country, divide up the reading among themselves, and do it from home, recording it with your cell phone. If you'd like to participate please contact Pastor Amy at [pastoralbt@outlook.com](mailto:pastoralbt@outlook.com) or (989) 274-6363. We're hoping to share this on December 6th.

**Christmas Eve**, we will offer several options for worship:

- **FIRST**, we will do a full online service, which will air at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve on our Youtube Channel ([Saginaw First UMC](#)) and be available anytime thereafter, complete with choirs, bells, soloists, musical ensembles, scripture, prayer, brief sermon, and candlelight. This will ONLY be available ONLINE.
- **SECOND**, we MIGHT offer *THREE* in-person simple worship experiences on Christmas Eve. Each one will last only a half-hour, and consist of scripture lessons, carols, prayer, and candlelight. The services will be held Christmas Eve from a) 5:30-6:00pm; b) 7:00-7:30pm; c) 8:30-9:00pm. This allows our staff one hour in between to fully sanitize the space for the next group. Unfortunately, the nursery will not be open on Christmas Eve, but children are welcome and encouraged to participate in the service. You will need to [SIGN-UP HERE](#) to attend one of these services. Limit is 36 people per service. Whether these services actually take place is contingent on declining Covid-19 case numbers in Saginaw County into December. We will re-evaluate the safety of this plan by Mid-December.

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## 211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

week 1 → 1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 week 2 → 2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things  
 week 3 → 6. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thy  
 week 4 → 7. O come, De - sire of Na - tions bind all peop - les in one

is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here.  
 far and nigh; to us the path of know - ledge show.  
 jus - tice here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life;

*Refrain*

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 and cause us in her ways to go.  
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 de - liv - er us from earth - ly strife.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O is - ra - el.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry VENI EMMANUEL  
 Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986 LM with Refrain  
 MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United  
 Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict



# People, Look East

1. People, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the  
 2. Fur-rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant-ed  
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall  
 4. An-gels an-nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to

year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the  
 there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in  
 brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as  
 earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the

People, look east and sing to - day:

hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east:  
 course the flower may flour-ish.  
 sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 word, the Lord is com-ing. Peo-ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: Trad. French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1928

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