

*"Peace with God, peace
with others, and peace in
your own heart."
~ Rick Warren*



Sunday, December 1, 2024

First Sunday in Advent ~ Hanging of the Greens

Music Prelude "Heaven Everywhere" Karen & Kati Duet

Lighting of the Candles

Bell Tolling - Welcome to Worship (** = all who are able, please stand*)

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ Hope Bernaix Family

Prayer **Our hope is in you, Lord. Fill us with the hope you give, the hope that sustains us and gives us strength for the days ahead; the hope that does not disappoint. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Song "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Red Hymnal, #88, Vs. 2

*Call to Worship Rita Huslage

From Isaiah: "Come, let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob

That God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."

With what shall we come to God's house?

Bring branches of cedar and holly, bring evergreens and a pine tree, hang wreaths and garland.

In the act of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets, let us make our hearts and this space a place of inward and outward preparation for the One who comes to give us second birth. Amen.

Hanging of the Wreaths

*Hymn "The Holly and the Ivy"

Prayer cards are collected during the Hymn.

*Gathering Prayer (unison)

God of the darkened night, God the morning light, come to us again.

Come to us in Preparation of our homes and our hearts. Come to us in the harmony of song and the sound of silence. Come in our faithful waiting and hopeful watching. Come to us in the cry for peace and the smile of forgiveness. God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, come to us; be with us. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Moment ~ Noisy Offering

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 9: 2 and 6 Laurie Buenemann

Blessing of the Tree and Chrismon's

In Ancient times, the cedar was known as the tree of royalty. Today we often use cedar, along with other green trees which we prize for their fragrance as well as the symbolism of our expectation and hope of the coming of the Christ child again. The evergreen reminds us of the everlasting life given to us through the grace of God and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Chrismon's, are symbols of Christ's identity, and story. Chrismon is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram."

Chrismon bearers come and decorate the trees during the singing of a song

Song "O Christmas Tree"

Second Scripture Reading John 1: 1-5 Martha Cooley

Blessing of the Candles

The candles symbolize the light of God that came in to the world through the birth of Jesus Christ. Windows in homes and churches alike are decorated with candles that burn each night. This is an old custom that sprang from the belief that the lighted windows would guide the Christ Child through the darkness to the house.

Candles are placed in the windows as we sing

Hymn "Go Light the World"

Third Scripture Reading Isaiah 41: 17-20 Ruth Nahmensen

Blessing of the Poinsettias

Dr. Joel Poinsett brought the flower to the US in 1828. The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves resemble the Star of Bethlehem which led the wisemen to Jesus. In Mexico, they are called the Flower of the Holy Night.

Poinsettias are brought in and placed as we sing

Hymn "O How Shall I Receive You" Black Hymnal, #102

Offertory Debi Gravemann

As the wisemen and women of today we bring our offerings before Jesus to share with those in need.

Offering Song "Light of the World"

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,

Praise God above, you heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Holy, Holy, Holy God, three in one, we thank you as we begin a new church year. Like the cycles of the church year, we are reminded that You are the Alpha and Omega. May our gifts of time, talent and treasure come from our hearts as we see your son in all we meet. Prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the bright Morning Star, Your son Jesus. Amen.

Fourth Scripture Reading Luke 2: 8-14 Connie Pickering

Blessing of the Nativity

According to legend, St. Francis of Assisi created the first living Nativity scene in 1223 in Greccio Italy, which included the Holy Family and animals and human visitors.

Today we remember Christ's birth with our nativity sets and creche's.

Stable and characters placed on the Altar during music "Away in the Manger"

Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution and Blessing of the Elements

Call to the Table

Passing of the Elements

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion Song "The Bread Has Been Broken"

Faith in Action

*Song of Sending "Even So Come"

*Commission and Blessing Adapted from Ann Weems

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Advent came filled with angels and alleluias?

Wouldn't it be perfect if we were greeted on these December morning with a hovering of heavenly hosts tuning their harps and brushing up on their fal-la-las?

Wouldn't it be incredible if their music filled our waking hours with the promise of peace on earth and if each Advent night we dreamed of nothing but goodwill?

Wouldn't we be ecstatic if we could take those angels shopping, or trimming the tree or have them hold our hands and dance through our houses decorating?

And, oh, how glorious it would be to sit in church next to an angel and sing our hark-the-heralds!

What an Advent that would be! What Christmas spirit we could have!

An angel-filled Advent has so many possibilities!

ALL... But in lieu of that, perhaps we can give thanks for the good earthly joys we have been given and for the earthly "angels" that we know who do such a good job of filling our Advent with alleluias!

*Benediction

Music Postlude

FRIEDENS UCC STAFF

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FRIEDENS LIVESTREAMING VOLUNTEERS

BROADCASTERS

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CAMERA

Debbie Ayres, Sharon Brune, Marie Haupt, Connie Pickering, Sara Vollmar

SOUND

Galen Brune, Jeff Hitchcock & Jackson Vollmar

POWER POINT

Marie Haupt, Sandra Leezy, Debi Gravemann

PRAISESOUND

Jim Anderson, Karen Hitchcock, Sue Lienemann

LITURGIST . . . Sanctuary Committee

ACOLYTE . . . Everett Martin

USHERS . . . Consistory, Leon Kolkmeier

USHER/CONSISTORY . . . Debbie Ayres, Brenda Henning,
Betty Schippers, Connie Pickering

DONUT HOUR . . . Consistory

NEXT SUNDAY SOCIAL HOUR . . . Susan Collins

COUNTERS . . . Mary Martin & Ruth Nahmensen



**PLACE DONATIONS IN THE WELL OF HOPE OR IN
BLACK CONTAINER OUTSIDE OF THE VESTIBULE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

Fruit Cocktail
Tuna Helper

Canned Peaches
Canned Tuna

Cranberry Sauce
Canned Tomatoes

Hamburger Helper
Stuffing

Misc. Potatoes

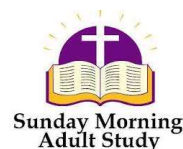
Laundry Soap

Bible Study



**Tuesday evening at 7 pm and Wednesday morning at 9 am.
Bible Study is held in the Conference room. Please bring your bibles.**

**Sunday mornings after Worship Sunday
School is held in the Hospitality Room**





Holiday Spirits ~ Saturday, December 7 @ 6:30 pm

Bring a \$10 generic gift for Rob-Ur-Neighbor

Bring an appetizer to share

Bring your drink of choice

Sign-up sheet located on the Church Office Window

Sunday, December 15 ~ Christmas Pageant during Worship



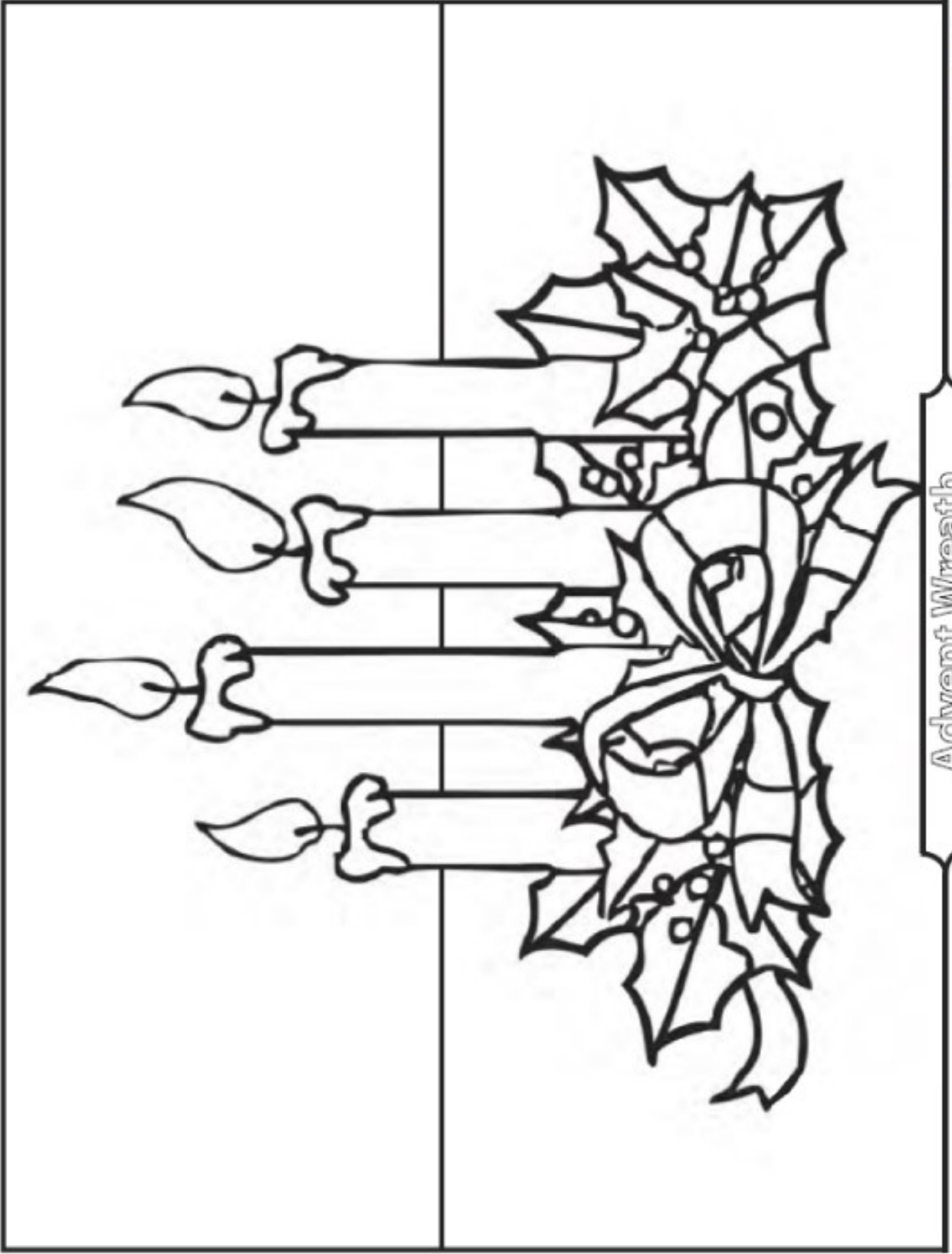
Sunday, December 15 ~ Blue Christmas



Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24 @ 7:00 pm





Advent Wreath