



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Welcome

The Opening Prayer

Leader: God loves justice!

People: God calls us to act in compassionate ways toward others.

Leader: Rejoice, God has placed God's trust in you
to be those who will bring good news of peace and joy.

**People: With the healing love of God in our hearts,
we journey through this season, getting ready to welcome
the One who will turn the world upside-down.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and praise God whose love is showered over us.

**People: Lord God, be with us as we seek your guidance
and work to do your will. Amen.**

The Hymn No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

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.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.
May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show
us the way of salvation.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Sermon

And Justice for All....

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Solo

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Wilbur Held

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The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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.**

The Hymn No. 2177

Wounded World that Cries for Healing

HEALING SPIRIT

1. Wounded world that cries for healing
here we hold each other's pain,
wounded systems,
bruised and bleeding bear the load,
the scars of strain;
dollars ration out compassion,
hard decisions rule the day,
Jesus of the healing Spirit,
free us to another way!
2. Through our nation's spent frustration,
through the corridors of stress
may there move a kindlier wisdom
all my feel,
and all may bless;
tax and tithe are for a purpose
shared to shield the poor and weak;
past the symptoms of our sickness
let the voice of justice speak.
3. Honor those whose loving spirit
nurses hope, restores and heals,
towel and basin used in service
like the Christ who comes and kneels;
in the tending,
in the mending
may we see the right and fair,
in our common quest for wholeness
heal each other by our care.

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The Benediction

The Postlude

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

USA Folk Melody

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We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Rev. Drew Willson
Director of Music:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Good News of Deliverance

61 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;^[a]
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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