

Unity Moravian Church
November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

THE CONGREGATION PREPARES FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

O'Brien Family

PRELUDE

"In the First Light"

arr. B. Wolaver

HEARING GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

LITURGY

"Advent 1"

Dana Myers

Shout for joy you heavens; rejoice, all the earth! The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Rejoice greatly, shout for joy! See, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation.

TUNE: ST. THEODULPH (151 G)

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.

We praise you, the Lord God of Israel! You came to the help of your people and have set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, a descendant of your servant David.

You promised through your holy prophets long ago that you would save us from our enemies, from the power of all those who hate us.

You have shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and have remembered your holy covenant.

With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham, you promised to rescue us from our enemies and allow us to serve you without fear,

So that we might be holy and righteous before you all the days of our life.

By your tender mercy you cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us,

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The voice of the messenger echoes from the desert, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord and to make a straight path on which he may come. Let us confess our sins, so that our crooked ways will be made straight and the rough ways smooth.

Gracious Lord Jesus, you come to us with the good news of salvation, but too often we fail to notice. You come to us day by day, yet we close the doors of our hearts when it seems convenient to do things our own way. We ignore your presence and your leadership. We have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

Forgive us, merciful Lord.

May we live so that the world will know that you have come. Amen.

Through John the Baptizer, we hear the Lord's promise: Turn away from your sins, and God will forgive your sins.

TUNE: TRURO

*Lift up your heads, you mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*So come, my Sovereign, enter in; let new and nobler life begin;
The Holy Spirit guide us on, until our glorious goal is won.*

Eternal God, Ruler of all ages, graciously you come to us in order that we might come to you, through the merit of Jesus Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Help us and all your children to respond to the call of your gospel with faith, love, and hope.

God of faith, you created humanity to serve and praise you; and even when we rebelled against you, you promised to send a Savior to redeem us from our sins:

Strengthen our faith in your saving work through Christ. As you chose the people of Israel to hear the promise of redemption through the prophets, may people today believe in your good will for all that you have made.

God of love, you fulfilled your promise of a redeemer in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Grant us the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may share your love with the sick and the afflicted, with the poor and the homeless, with the victims of injustice and discrimination, and with all who are experiencing times of trouble.

God of hope, you comfort us through our Savior's promise to return in glory at the end of time:

As we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, let us not despair. We long for you to inspire all the nations and peoples of the world to turn to cooperation and nurture, rather than to hatred and destruction.

God of faith, love, and hope, to you and to you alone we pray:

For you are our God, the only God, forever and ever. Amen.

<u>Men</u>	<u>Women (Echo)</u>
<i>Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!</i>	<i>(Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!)</i>
<i>Hosanna!</i>	<i>(Hosanna!)</i>
<i>Hosanna!</i>	<i>(Hosanna!)</i>
<i>Blessed is he that comes,</i>	<i>(Blessed is he that comes)</i>
<i>He that comes in the name of the Lord!</i>	<i>(He that comes in the name of the Lord!)</i>
<i>Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!</i>	<i>(Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!)</i>
<i>Hosanna!</i>	<i>(Hosanna!)</i>
<i>Hosanna!</i>	<i>(Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!)</i>
<i>Hosanna in the highest!</i>	
<i>Hosanna!</i>	<i>(Hosanna!)</i>
<i>Hosanna!</i>	<i>(Hosanna in the highest!)</i>
<i>Hosanna in the highest!</i>	

Lord, you have kept the promise you made to our ancestors, and have come to the help of your servant people.

You remembered to show mercy to Abraham and Sarah and to all their descendants forever!

We praise you, Lord. You are enthroned in glory, yet you came and continue to come for all who will receive you. We praise you, for you are good, and your mercy endures forever.

To you be glory and power, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

TUNE: REGENT SQUARE (585 D)

*Praise to you, O Lord, we render for your love in Jesus shown;
May that love, so strong and tender, bind us fast to him alone;
Now and ever, now and ever, gather us among your own.*

ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” 9th Century Hymn
(Quartet: Deeje Culbertson, Sharon Dailey, Jay Parsons, Wayne Yancey)

THE READING OF GOD’S WORD

Ecclesiastes 7: 15 – 21, 29

Dana Myers

Lector: This is the Word of God for the People of God

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 260

“Rejoice, Rejoice! The Kingdom Comes”

Rejoice, rejoice, the kingdom comes; be glad for it is near.
It comes with joy surprising us; it triumphs over our fears.
Give thanks for as the kingdom comes it brings God’s own shalom,
A state of peace and justice where all with God are one.

Rejoice, rejoice, God's will stands firm throughout all time and space.
It is a quiet, steady force pervading every place.
It snaps the brittleness of hate, unties the bonds of greed.
It holds our love abundant which never fails our need.

TEXT FOR THE DAY

[Luke 10: 1 – 11](#)

THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY

[“The Advent Conspiracy”](#)

SILENT REFLECTION

INTERLUDE

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

arr. M. Kerrick

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

WORSHIP BY GIVING

[For online giving: You may use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal available to us at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/> Or, as always, you may send a check via U.S. Mail to the church]

CONCERNS AND JOYS FOR THE COMMUNITY, NATION AND WORLD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

PRAYER RESPONSE 483

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

*Of the Father's love begotten, e're the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, and, with Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be;
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore.*

FOLLOWING OUR LAMB INTO THE WORLD

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Unto Us A Boy is Born”

Traditional

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Staff

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Believers Music Leaders:	Ruth Burcaw and Randy Nofle	

Watchword Text for the Year

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people,
may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. II Corinthians 4:15

In essentials **UNITY**, in non-essentials, **LIBERTY**, in all things, **LOVE!**

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