



Tecumseh United Methodist Church

Christ's compassionate community in Tecumseh;
Loving and serving prayerfully and unconditionally

Worship Podcast

Sunday 12/13/2020

Welcome to worship!

Where there is text in **bold type**, you are invited to speak the words printed there just as we do with responsive readings in church.

Advent Devotion

please see the last page

Centering

Centering Reading

John 1.1-5

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.

Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word nothing came into being.

What came into being through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

Centering Music

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – UMH 211 vv. 1, 4

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.

O come, thou root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one hearts and mind.

From dust thou brought us forth from life; deliver us from earthly strife.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

Bible Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

This is John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

John confessed (he didn't deny but confessed), "I'm not the Christ."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

John said, "I am not."

"Are you the prophet?"

John answered, "No."

They asked, "Who are you? We need to give answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied,

"I am a voice crying out in the wilderness,
make the Lord's path straight just as the prophet Isaiah said."

Those sent by the Pharisees asked, "Why do you baptize if you aren't the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

John answered, "I baptize with water. Someone greater stands among you, whom you don't recognize. He comes after me, but I'm not worthy to untie his sandal straps." This encounter took place across the Jordan in Bethany where John was baptizing.

Message

Notes:

Music

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Savior of the nations, come; Virgin’s Son, here make thy home!

Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood; by the Spirit of our God

was the Word of God made flesh, woman’s offspring pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child of the Virgin undefiled!

Human and divine in one, eater now his race to run!

Prayer

Notes (joys, concerns, for self & others):

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who is in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

Forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

Christmas Eve Worship – While we cannot safely gather on Christmas Eve, we can celebrate and a Christmas Eve worship podcast is being put together even now. It will be a traditional “lessons and carols” format and much of the music that will be used is being recorded in the Tecumseh UMC sanctuary. The podcast will be available around 6pm on December 24th.

We could use more music – if you can help contact Pastor Mark.

Advent Project ~ Build a Manger Scene Shepherds--the first to hear the news

Instead of an Advent Wreath, we're using the assembly of a manger scene to reflect on Advent themes.

The photo below is of the complete scene. Each of the drawings were printed on paper then glued to index cards and trimmed leaving a tab at the bottom to bend back and use to stand the drawing upright.



Of all those who sought out the newborn Christ, it was a group of shepherds just outside of Bethlehem who were favored with the first announcement of Jesus' birth.

Their encounter with the angels who offered news of great joy to all people--but first to them--reminds us that God offers his gift of his Son to all, even those who are invisible to most of us.

If God cared enough to favor shepherds with the announcement of the greatest Christmas gift ever, then how can we ignore anyone when sharing the good news of Christ's birth.