

**Prelude** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. Keveren  
Melanie Manges, piano

**Welcome** Len Wilson

**Call to Worship** Len Wilson

**ONE:** God of the journey, God of Advent, we come this morning looking for signs, signs of love, light, mercy, and forgiveness.

**ALL:** Come to us in this hour. Be the candle that burns for us in the darkness. Come into the night of our lives and be the sunlight that blooms for us!

**Hymn of Advent** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #153, all verses

**The Advent Wreath** (The meaning of the Advent Wreath) Len Wilson

The advent wreath, which is made of evergreens, points to the hope we have in God and signifies eternity and continuous life. The circle of the wreath—which has no beginning or end—symbolizes the everlasting love God has for us and the everlasting life we have in Christ. The four candles represent the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Three of the candles are purple, symbolizing royalty and the pink candle symbolizes rejoicing. The center candle is white and reminds us that Christ is the light of the world; he is the light shining in the midst of darkness. He is Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

**Hymn of Hope** "We Light the Advent Candles" Verses 1 & 2; Alternate melody  
(Melanie will play the new melody through one time, then congregation sings.)

We light the Advent candles against the winter night,  
to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light,  
to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light.

The first one will remind us that Christ will soon return,  
We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn,  
We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.

**Lighting the Candle of Hope** Gordon & Harriet Coppoc

**ALL:** Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of **HOPE**. With Christians around the world, we use this light to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Kindle this flame of hope. May it burn bright and true.  
Lighting the way that is of God, the journey we pursue.  
God's realm is our desire, where peace and justice reign.  
Heaven and earth combined as one, when Christ shall come again.\**

\* Words by Gary L. Lake Dillensnyder, 2009 Music by Robert Jackson, 1888. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 34003. Website <http://www.umc.worship.org>. Used by permission.

<b>Invitation to Prayer</b>		Dan Hartley
<b>Pastoral Prayer &amp; Lord's Prayer</b>		Dan Hartley
<b>New Testament Reading</b>	Matthew 24:36-44	Dan Hartley
<b>Sermon</b>	"Unexpected Time"	Dan Hartley
<b>Worship Arts</b>	"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"	#241 Brown Hymnal
	Dan Hartley – first 2 verses Congregation – verses 3 & 4	
<b>Missions Moment</b>		Jubilee Christmas Needs
<b>Offering</b>		Len Wilson
	<i>Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, Teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, That we might praise you not with our words only, But with our whole lives. Amen.</i>	
<b>Offertory</b>	"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"	arr. DeCou
	Melanie Manges, organ	
<b>Doxology</b>	<i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.</i>	
<b>Congregational Response to New Members</b>		
	<i>In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place. We hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace.</i>	
<b>Announcements</b>		Len Wilson
<b>Benediction</b>		Dan Hartley
<b>Postlude</b>	"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"	arr. Raney
	Melanie Manges, piano	