

A Time Together & Apart Worship
Rutland United Methodist Church
First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021

WELCOME ~ Advent is a time of looking forward as well as looking back. We anticipate Christmas, gathering with friends and family. We look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth and the promise that comes with him into the world. We also look back on the past, remembering the challenges we have come through and the difficulties of the year behind us. As we enter into this Advent season, we bring our whole selves here with hope and anticipation. May the Holy Spirit infuse us as we worship this day.

OPENING MUSIC

Make Way

Joy Choir

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING **

Somers Family

(Please follow along on the screen or use separate green paper)

CALL TO WORSHIP **

Pastor: Something stirs deep within us – a longing, a hope,

People: A thirst for joy, a hunger for peace, a yearning for blessing.

Pastor: We know deep within that our hopes and fears will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.

People: It is Advent – season of waiting, hoping and yearning.

ALL: Advent – time to go home.

HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Tune #209 (1 & 3)

1 Blest be the God of Israel who sets all people free
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring all people peace.

3 On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

SHARING THE STORY OF FAITH

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Ashley Somers

UNISON PRAYER ##

Lord, we are anxious. There are things happening in the world that we do not understand, things happening that cause anxiety and fear to rise up in us. Help us to be alert to your coming, Lord. May we become Advent people, embracing hope as our stronghold. Jesus, you came into this world with all of its sorrows. Keep us alert and awake to your presence in the midst of our struggles now. Remind us again, that your love will triumph. Amen.

MOMENTS OF QUIET MEDITATION

SGO

*There are signs all around us
Mingling hope and fear, anxiety and anticipation.
“Loving God, guide us through each day, help us find our way home to You.”*

SUNG RESPONSE***Lead Me, Lord*****#473 (1)**

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.

READING FROM THE WORD**Luke 21:25-36****REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE*****Looking for Signs*****Rev. Shirley Oskamp****OFFERING****DOXOLOGY****DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS and PLEDGES****HYMN*****Come, thou Long Expected Jesus*****#196 (1,3)**

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.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**CLOSING MUSIC*****Emmanuel*****Ann Reed****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(This portion of the service will not be broadcast on Facebook, but is available to those who worship on Zoom or in person.)

REACHING OUT - Thank you for continuing your faithful support of our church through your offering, which may be mailed to Rutland UMC at 60 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701.

BIBLE STUDY meets on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm via ZOOM. Join us as we read and discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. Contact Pastor Shirley for study materials.

JOY CHOIR rehearsals: Tuesdays at 5:15 pm at RUMC. Contact Ann Reed or the Church office.

BELLS OF JOY will rehearse on Wednesday, December 1 and December 8 at 5:15 pm at RUMC. They will play in Church on December 12. Contact Karen James or the Church office.

RUMC Bells of Joy have been invited to perform in an hour **Concert** that Proctor Union Church, 5 Church Street in Proctor, on Sunday, December 12 at 1:00 pm. Jen Cohen and her Panhandlers (Steel Drum) group will host this concert and will also play several Christmas selections. Admission is free; however, donations will be gratefully accepted. Please wear a mask.

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Make Way – Graham Kendrick - ©1986 Thankyou Music (PRS), kingswaysongs.com

Advent Song by Mary Lu Walker ©1975 Mary Lu Walker

Blessed be the God of Israel ~ Words: Michael Perry ©1973, Music: Hal Hopson ©1983 Hope Pub. Co.

Lead Me, Lord ~ Public Domain

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Words: Charles Wesley, Music: Rowland Prichard; Pubic Domain

Emmanuel – Michael W. Smith, ©1983 Meadow Green Music Company

** Call to Worship & Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy by Dr. Derek C. Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, Discipleship Ministries of the UMC.

Unison Prayer is a reworking of a prayer written by Anne Osdieck, posted on the Center for Liturgy Website of Saint Louis University.