

**A Time Apart Worship**  
**Rutland UMC & Church of the Wildwood**  
Sunday, November 29, 2020 First Sunday of Advent

**OPENING MUSIC**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Joy Choir**

**WELCOME**

Welcome in this season of Advent. Welcome to this time when we quiet our minds and listen for God's voice. Welcome to this space where we center our hearts on the reality of God's presence with us. May this service of worship prepare us for the coming of Christ.

**CALL TO WORSHIP ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING \*\***

**Reader One:** If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence." So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

**Reader One:** We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

**Response: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.**

**HYMN**

*All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded*

**#132**

1. All my hope is firmly grounded, in the great and living Lord;  
Who, whenever I most need him, never fails to keep his word.  
Him I must, wholly trust, God the ever good and just.

3. But in every time and season, out of love's abundant store,  
God sustains his whole creation, fount of life for evermore.  
We who share earth and air, count on God's unfailing care.

**SHARING THE STORY OF FAITH**

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

**Ann Reed**

**UNISON PRAYER \*\***

God, who is closer to us than our breath, remind us during this season of your faithful presence. Wake us up to the messiness that exists in our lives and in our world. Help us to cling tightly to your promised presence with us and empower us to be aware of where you are at work in our world that we might join you in the mission of reconciling the world to yourself. Amen.

**MOMENTS OF QUIET MEDITATION**

**SGO**

*Advent sneaks up on us,  
Expected, and yet somehow surprising,  
Reminding us that the Holy awaits  
May we prepare our hearts and lives*

**SUNG RESPONSE*****I Believe***

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining  
 I believe in love even when I don't feel it  
 I believe in God even when God is silent

**READING FROM THE WORD****Mark 13:24-37****REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE*****Wake Up! Get Ready!*****Rev. Shirley Oskamp****PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER****HYMN*****Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*****#196**

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.

**DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS**

**BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH** ~ May you be fully awake and aware of your role in preparing the way of the Lord. May you bring joy and compassion to those you encounter. May you experience the deep peace of Christ's presence with you even now. Go forward in that peace. Amen.

**CLOSING MUSIC*****In the Bleak Midwinter*****Bells of Joy Quartet**

**REACHING OUT** - During this time of worshiping at home, the work of the church continues. We are reaching out through phone, letter and internet, feeding hungry people and offering spiritual support to those in need of encouragement (which is really all of us). Thank you for continuing your faithful support of our church through your offering, which may be mailed to Rutland UMC at 60 Strongs Ave. or to Church of the Wildwood c/o Cyndie Clark, 1 Merrick Street Rutland, VT 05701.

**Bible Study** meets on Tuesdays at 1:00pm via ZOOM. Join us as we read and discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85438229806?pwd=bzlBMU5zNmNNMzJ6dlllQmVpUzhQZz09>

Dial in +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 854 3822 9806 Passcode: 178551

**\*\* Indicates material from UMC Discipleship Resources.**

Call to Worship Advent Candle Lighting by Rev. Derek Weber

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