

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

10 am

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Pre-Service Music

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Children's Sunday School

In this season of expectation,

we prepare to welcome Jesus, the Messiah.

Into the busyness of our lives and the hard-to-find moments of solitude,

we prepare to welcome Jesus, the Messiah.

Into our homes and our situations, along with friends and family,

we prepare to welcome Jesus, the Messiah.

Into our hearts, and the often hidden parts of our lives,

we prepare to welcome Jesus, the Messiah.

Come, Lord Jesus, and bring your peace, your joy, your love and your light.

Our hearts are waiting for your arrival.

Opening Song

Waiting Here for You

Northside Chapel Praise Band

Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Martin Smith

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Verse 1

If faith can move the mountains, let the mountains move

We come with expectation, waiting here for You; Waiting here for You

Verse 2

You're the Lord of all creation and still You know my heart

The Author of salvation, You've loved us from the start

Chorus 1

Waiting here for You with our hands lifted high in praise

And it's You we adore, we're singing alleluia

Verse 3

You are ev'rything You've promised, Your faithfulness is true

And we're desperate for Your presence, all we need is You

Chorus 1

Waiting here for You with our hands lifted high in praise
And it's You we adore, we're singing alleluia

Interlude

We will wait for You Lord; In step with You Lord; We sing Alleluia

Bridge

Singing alleluia, singing alleluia (x2)

Chorus 2

Waiting here for You, Lord with our hands lifted high in praise
And it's You, Lord we adore, singing alleluia; Singing alleluia

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Children's Sunday School

At the end of the reading, all pray together:

Almighty God, You came into the chaos of our world, announcing peace upon the earth. Yet so often, we make Christmas about other things. We get distracted, we get stressed, and we miss the gifts that You give to us in Jesus. As we make our way through another Advent, help us see where we must change. May we be open to Your Spirit - pulling us away from the world and into Your love and light. Amen.

A Message for Young Disciples

Pastor Jen Eschliman

Proclamation and Response

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5

- ¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- ³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Anthem

The Yearning

Chancel Singers

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's

greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Leader: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Message *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: When Christmas Isn't Christmas*
Pastor Jen Eschliman

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts to God

Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Communion Anthem

Heaven's Child

Northside Chapel Praise Band

Closing Prayer

Closing Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley | Rowland Prichard

Words & Music: Public Domain

Verse 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

Verse 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

Sending Forth

Announcements

- **Circle of Friends Wreaths are in for pickup TODAY after the service at the Yellow Shed. We have extras if anyone would still like to purchase one**
- **Christmas cards collection**

Benediction

Postlude

Post Service Announcement loop

Dear RUMC family,

On Sunday we started a new year in the life of the church, and I couldn't think of a better way to kick it off. We had the joy of welcoming Tanner Nicholas Irvine into the family of God through baptism, and our choir blessed us with a second surprise anthem, which helped us get into the spirit of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

This week we'll continue our series, *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Faith Lessons from the Grinch*, by exploring Dr. Seuss's own "grinchy" story and what happens when Christmas isn't really Christmas. We'll also get a lesson on Chrismons alongside our children's Sunday School class. Instead of heading to Sunday School this week, they'll be making Chrismons in the parlor. Grown-ups are welcome to make Chrismons, too - just plan to stay a few minutes after worship to craft your addition to the Chrismon tree!

I hope you'll join us this Sunday as we journey through Advent and prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus and the gifts He brings.

Advent blessings,

Pastor Jen

P.S. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our #GivingTuesday campaign! A number of those gifts received a match and will help us multiply our impact in the coming year. If you didn't get a chance to give and would still like to, you can visit <https://www.facebook.com/donate/1259068657926902/> any time between now and Sunday, December 5. I'm grateful for your generosity!



Circle of Friends' **Wreath Pickup will be on SUNDAY--DECEMBER 5th at 11am till 12 Noon** at the Yellow Shed.

Please call Tammy Nash if you have any questions at 410-239-8394.

We do have a few extra Wreaths for Sale!!

Poinsettias! It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas Eve – we need the orders in by THIS SUNDAY!!!



December 5th. Money is due the following Sunday, December 12th.

We have red and white 6" pots with 5-7 blooms available. Here is the link to order them on-line (there will be a paper form available on Sunday morning as well) <https://forms.gle/wcUrq1G488uannPG7>



With the weather changing we have decided to make the Fellowship Hall doors and the PreSchool hallway available for entrance on Sunday mornings for worship (only). It will only be unlocked from 9:30 – 10:15 am. You will be able to exit anytime but only able to enter during that time slot.

A note from the office regarding notice for the website and the newsletter – due to unscrupulous scammers trolling the website, we will only be including the OFFICE phone number and Ministry email addresses in the newsletters and on the website – this is to protect you and the church. Personal emails and phone numbers will be included in the Midweek announcements as this only goes out to people on the email list and will not be available to the general public.



JUST A REMINDER – THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE EYE DOCTOR'S PARKING LOT ADJACENT TO OUR 308 FOOD PANTRY PARKING AREA. YOU WILL GET TOWED!!!



Pastor Barbara Parnell will be leading a bible study in January for the Sisterhood. Topic of the study is being worked on. Please let Kelly Fairhurst or Jannell Trcka know if you are interested.



RUMC Christmas Card Post Office sponsored by the Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Join in on the fun of sending some Christmas JOY! With so many of us disconnected from our friends at church during the last 2 years we wanted to make an EXTRA effort this Christmas to spread LOVE in our church family.

Save postage sending cards to others at Reisterstown UMC. Please address your Christmas cards with first and last names; add your personal notes inside and deposit them in the big box in the narthex/lobby starting now through December 12th.

A list of names can be provided if you do not have a directory.

The youth and young adults will be sorting and bundling cards while watching a Christmas Movie on December 12th from 11:30-2:00.

Youth and Adult Volunteers please RSVP to Susan Harry, 410-245-7190, By Dec. 10th.

Cards will be ready for pick up at the Christmas Eve Services. Let's make sure everyone gets a Christmas Card this year!



JOY Cookie Walk – The JOY Cookie Walk and chocolate dipped pretzels sale is BACK! And will be available on Sunday December 12th, 2021, before and after the church service in the Fellowship Hall! The homemade cookies will sell for \$4.00/dozen. The pretzels will come 2 pretzels to a bag and will sell for \$1.00. You must wear a mask in the Fellowship hall and JOY members will gladly fill your bag with the cookies of your choice. Please DO NOT TOUCH the cookies. JOY members will wear masks and gloves and will help you with the cookies. We're looking forward to seeing many of you that day and we're so excited to be able to have this much enjoyed fundraiser again. Contact Sherry Osborne or any JOY member if you have any further questions. Thank you for your participation.



Angel Tree plans continue to look different this year as we help 30 families. We will continue to support our families as we did last year with groceries, gift cards, and gift bags with family friendly activities. We still need your help with gift cards and with the gift bags as you did last year. Cards to Target, Walmart, and grocery stores are the best choices and will allow families to shop for what they need. Many of our families shop at ALDI, so those gift cards are welcome, too! The cards will be distributed according to family size.

Kris Brown already started the collection of items for the gift bags which can be delivered to the food pantry on Saturday mornings by December 18, 2021.

Gift cards can be delivered to me on Sundays in December or I can pick them up from you. In the meantime, Thank you for your generous support for the Thanksgiving baskets this year and for your help in the past.

And thanks to Kris Brown for her amazing help with this effort for Christmas families this year.

Blessings to all!

Liz Livermore (410-215-0890) lizlive@comcast.net

Dear Friends,



During this time of COVID 19, a special way to honor your family and friends is through the Alternative Christmas Program. Instead of worrying over what gift to give, you can choose to support a mission program in their honor. It is a special way to give to those in need while showing love to your family and friends.

The Mission Committee is recommending the following programs:

- 1) Local UMC Board of Child Care, providing stable living and educational support to children in need.
- 2) National - Advance # 901670 - UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery provides support when natural or civil disasters are of such a magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.
- 3) International - Advance # 982450 - UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery helps meet emergency response needs around the world, including natural disasters and refugee needs.

Giving through the UMC Advance Special program insures that 100% of your gift goes to the project designated. (Project 2 and 3)

When giving to the Alternative Christmas program, please put the name of the project you support on the "For" line of your check. You can pick up the donor cards and envelopes outside the church office.

This Alternative Christmas Gift program is for your family and friends and is not intended to replace your regular giving to RUMC.



Supplies for Afghan Refugees

As you know, many Afghan refugees left their homes with little more than the clothes they were wearing. Most worked with the US forces, NATO or other NGOs. For this they were targeted by the Taliban. Many families will be resettled in the Baltimore area and their needs are great. We will be working with Afghan Resettlement Program. This list indicates some of the many items the families will need.

Kitchen: knives 3 different types, set of pots with lids

Bedrooms: bed pillows, twin size blankets or comforters, twin set of sheets, Full/Queen blankets or comforters, full/queen set of sheets

Bathroom: shower curtain and rings, toilet brush and holder, toilet paper (12 pack) Desk supplies: note paper and pens, pencils Large plastic bins to hold clothes Cleaning supplies: sponges, vacuum, broom and dust pan

Hygiene: men's and women's deodorant, pack of feminine hygiene pads, pack of razors and shaving cream), toothbrushes

Foods: sugar, salt, black tea, bag of rice

Furniture: couch, armchairs, dining table and chairs for 5-6 people, 2 dresser or chests of drawers, twin bed frame, double/ queen bed frame, coffee table, side tables, television, table lamps, floor lamps

If you wish to donate any of these items, please email Susan Henry (susanhenry434@yahoo.com) and we will figure out how to get the supplies to the collection point. Thank you for sharing with our new neighbors.



RUMC Acolytes Fall 2021

FALL 2021

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|---------|--|---|
| Dec. 5 | Emma Osborne | 2 nd Sunday in Advent |
| Dec. 12 | Paige Osborne | 3 rd Sunday in Advent |
| Dec. 19 | Samantha Brown | 4 th Sunday in Advent (Music Sunday) |
| Dec. 24 | 4:30 - Emma Osborne, Paige Osborne, Laura Harry (Cross bearer) | |
| | 7:00- _____, _____, _____ | |
| Dec. 26 | _____ Carols & Music | |



Food pantry immediate needs: Cereal, peanut butter and corn Drop off: Saturday mornings between 8am-10:30am or Sundays fellowship hall bin.



RUMC's Cribbery is hiring! We are seeking an energetic Christian individual who is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for children who are not yet old enough to attend Sunday School. Weekly hours are on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Applicants should email Pastor Jen at pastorjeneschliman@gmail.com and describe their interest and relevant experience, and provide three references.



Did you forget to order Gift Cards and have an event where you need a gift? Karen has ordered some extra (Target/Walmart/Chipotle/Starbucks/Giant) in case you want to purchase at church. Just call/text/email Karen Green or see her on Sundays. Karen's contact information: [\(443\) 898-2396](tel:4438982396) or karengreeno23@gmail.com
Just a reminder that we will be taking Gift Card orders on the following dates: November 22nd and 29th and December 6th and 13th and then we will not take any more orders until January. Order early!



We are gathering for Sunday morning worship at 10 am in the sanctuary and online.
Link for Sunday Morning Worship

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: December 5, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86822778412?pwd=THZCNopkZXlsWG1DVWN5SisoT1VNQTo9>

Meeting ID: 868 2277 8412; Passcode: 271199; Dial by your location: 301 715 8592; Meeting ID: 868 2277 8412



This Wednesday we will continue *You Were Made for This Moment* by Max Lucado. This study is about how the story of Esther inspires us to step up and stand out for GOD! The study will include streaming followed by discussion. There will be no need to purchase a book. Here is A Letter from Max:

Hi Friends,

I know we're facing some tough times. Whoever thought 2021 was going to be a walk in the park after 2020 had a rude awakening. And we're weary...We're weary from our challenges, worn down by our fears, and worried that we'll never find relief.

If you're feeling this way, I have an encouraging message: ***Relief will come.*** It will.

There is a story in the Bible that reminds us of this truth, a book by the name of Esther. Remember Esther? She found herself smack dab in the middle of political upheaval, cultural divides, and family drama, to say the least. When faced with a royal decree that would annihilate her people, Esther had to make some tough choices. Would she remain silent or would she speak up? Would she blend in or would she stand out? Would she trust that God could use her to save a nation or would she cower in fear?

Like Esther, you may be staring down a seemingly impossible situation. And what's true for Esther is true for you: Deliverance will come. God will have his victory. He will rescue his people. He will right the wrongs of this world.

The question is not, *Will God prevail?* The question is, *Will you be part of the team?* You, like Esther, can act in a way that will bless more people than you could imagine. **This is your moment.**

Your challenge is an opportunity to join God in His work. You don't need to become undone by tough times. You can become unleashed by our triumphant god. You, my friend, were made for this moment.

Max Lucado

We invite all men to join us as we continue this journey of study, growth and fellowship together. For those who may not be aware, we are now gathering in-person in 308. You can also join us each Wednesday night at 7:00pm by clicking on the links below. Google Meet limits each session to an hour now, so we have two concurrent sessions scheduled:

7-8pm: <https://meet.google.com/vwy-szre-qos>

8-9pm: <https://meet.google.com/ime-yfkc-wjc>

Please note that you will need a gmail account to join (we hope that is not an inconvenience for anyone). If you have any difficulty joining the meeting with the link above please send a reply to this email.

Blessings,

RUMC Men's Fellowship Leadership Team

Reaching Learning Celebrating Serving

Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

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- ★ Joys and Concerns from November 28, 2021
- From Rick & Jeanne Bagwell – continued prayers for my leg and good results on a CT scan that was taken of my head and neck recently. Also, continued prayers for my daughter's daycare.
 - From Rick & Kelly Fairhurst – prayers for Donald "Butch" Lloyd who was in Hospice has passed on 11/27. Prayers for the family
 - From Karen Sheffo – Praise God! My daughter Monica made it through Thanksgiving. She is still struggling but is communicating her feelings.
 - From Sue Priest – prayers for the Hill family
 - Kathleen Goeble is asking for prayers for the Goeble family.
 - From Linda Fitzhugh – Please pray for my brother Laverne who is in the hospital after needing a blood transfusion. The doctors are investigating why his red blood count is low.

WHAT IS A CHRISMON YOU ASK?

Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They are often used on [Christmas Trees](#) in Churches and Christians homes.

They were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the [Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia](#), USA. She also thought of the word, Chrismon, which is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). The idea quickly spread to other churches. It is traditional that Christian groups can make their own Chrismons with their favorite symbols on.

Each year a 20ft (6 meter) Christmas Tree is decorated in the Ascension Lutheran Church, as Mrs. Spencer intended, and visitors come and hear the story of Jesus explained through her original Chrismons and a few gifts from around the world.

Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold. White is the liturgical (or Church) color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory. Chrismons can be made from nearly anything, but paper and embroidered ones are the most widely used.



The Cross symbolises that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a Cross.



The Latin Cross, also sometimes called the Roman Cross. The base of the Cross has three steps that symbolize faith, hope, and love.



The Irish or Celtic Cross is a normal cross with a circle in the middle to symbolize eternity.



The Triumphant Cross represents the earth with the cross on top. It symbolizes Jesus is triumphant over anything we can face in the world.



The Jerusalem Cross was worn by the crusaders going to Jerusalem, in the middle ages. It can symbolise the Four Gospels in the Bible, the spread of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth or the five wounds of Jesus when he died on the cross.



The Eastern Cross is used by many Eastern or Orthodox Churches.



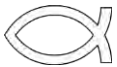
The Furca or Upsilon Cross comes from the Greek letter Y. It is also called The Thieves' Cross from the two robbers who were crucified on each side of Jesus. It also symbolizes the choice between good and evil.



The Anchor Cross reminds Christians that Jesus is the anchor of their faith.



IHS are the first three letters of 'Jesus' in Greek, this has been used to represent Jesus from the third century. From the middle ages, they also were used in the Latin phrase "Jesus Hominum Salvator" which means "Jesus, Savior of men". And in English they can mean "In His [Jesus's] Service". I've added them on a Cross as it looks more interesting!



The Fish is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus), stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Q), Son (Y), Savior (S). Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen.



Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Used together, they are the symbol that Christians believe Jesus is the beginning and end of all things.



The Chi-Rho looks like a 'P' with an 'X' on top of it. These two letters are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos' which means Christ.



The Star of David, sometimes called the Star of Creation, is a symbol that Jesus was a Jew and a descendant of King David.



A Five Pointed Star represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.



The Nativity Star is the symbol of [the Star of Bethlehem](#) or Epiphany, when the [Wisemen](#) visited Jesus.



An Eight Pointed Star represents baptism and regeneration.



The Crown is the symbol that Jesus is King. It shows that Christians believe Jesus is ruler over heaven and the earth.



The Shepherd's Crook or Staff remembers that Jesus sometimes called himself a shepherd. It can also represent the shepherds who were the first people told about the birth of Jesus.



Both of these symbols represent the Christian 'Trinity' of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. **The Triquetra** is made of three loops making a triangle representing the three parts of the trinity. **The Trefoil** (at the bottom) is three equal circles intertwined to form a whole.



Hands in Prayer help Christians remember that they should pray to God.



The Scroll represents the Bible.



The Dove is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptised.



The Lamp and The Candle both represent that Christians believe Jesus is the Light of the World.



The Shell is a symbol for baptism. It reminds Christians of the water that they are baptized in. It is also a sign of Pilgrimage, as Pilgrims to the Holy Land (Israel) would use a shell as a drinking vessel.



The Keys are a symbol for the Church in all the world. Jesus told his friend Peter that "I will give you keys to heaven", so this means that Christians have to tell other people about Jesus.



The Ship is also a symbol of the Church, sailing towards heaven.



The Cup or Chalice is a symbol of the Mass, Eucharist or Communion. It also represents God's forgiveness.



The Angel reminds Christians of the angels who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus. It can also represent the second coming of Jesus, which the Bible says will start with an Angel blowing a trumpet.



Babe / Manger represents Jesus as a baby at Christmas.



The Lamb is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called 'The Lamb of God'.



The Butterfly is a symbol for transformation and the immortal soul.



The Heart is a symbol of love and reminds Christians that God is love.




The Lion is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called 'The Lion of Judah'. Jesus is also represented as Aslan the Lion in the Chronicle of Narnia books by C S Lewis.



The White Rose is a symbol for purity and can represent Mary





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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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