



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

**Come Home for Christmas:
The Fear of Home**

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Prelude

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Arr. Hal Hopson

Choral Introit

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus
Chancel Choir

Christian Gregor Coralbuch

Welcome

† Opening Music

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209

1. Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us 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 our people peace.

2. Now from the house of David
a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.

Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day.

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!

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

Gail Chatfield; Chelsea, Cora, and Joe Carter

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.

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

Blessing for Children

Prayers of the People

*A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying.
A time of silence will indicate when you may share one name or very short phrase to add.*

Pastoral Prayer

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Scriptural Response

Liturgist: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem *And the Glory of the Lord* G.F. Handel
Chancel Choir

Message *The Fear of Home* Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response in the World

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

† **Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

Communion elements have been placed in the pews before the beginning of Worship for in-person worshipers. Online worshipers are invited to select elements including bread and juice (or similar). Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.

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.

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

Liturgist: God of light and love, your prophets call us to prepare for your coming, and to open our hearts to all who seek compassion and relief.

All: Too often, we close our ears to cries of pain, closing ourselves off from the healing power of kindness and love.

Liturgist: Your messengers call us to straighten the paths of all who might stumble, and to make a way in the wilderness, where there seems to be no way at all.

All: Too often, we close our eyes to the sight of those in need, fearing that justice for others will bring loss to ourselves.

Liturgist: You call us to bring light into the shadowy places, and to be messengers of your coming into a world of death and despair.

All: Forgive us when we are unwilling to bear your light, when we close off the pathways of our hearts to those who are in need of your good news.

Liturgist: Hear the good news: When we cannot find our way through the gloom, God gives light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† **Closing Music**

God Almighty, We Are Waiting

W & S 3047

1. God Almighty, we are waiting
for a Savior to appear.
Meet us in our desert journey;
give a sign that you are near:

burning bushes, parted waters,
food aplenty in the wild.
As we look for signs and wonders,
help us see you in a child.

2. God Incarnate, we are waiting
for the feast day of your birth.
Looking back and looking forward
to the Christ's return to earth.

Help us to proclaim the gospel,
'til the world is reconciled.
Let us set your holy table
for each woman, man, and child.

3. God the Spirit, we are waiting
for your presence here and now.
Humbled by our sinful weakness,
at your mercy we will bow.

Search our hearts and make us ready,
speak in language strong and mild,
help each one of us, your people,
to receive you like a child.

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue on the Kyrie

Francois Couperin

Liturgist: Chelsea Carter

Organist: Bob Wuertz

Pianist: Zishan Ding, Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Betsy Witt, Ann Gonsalves and Janet Lind

Audio Visual Team: Dave Flores, Emilio Valente, Cam Rhodes

Liturgical elements from *The Abingdon Worship Annual*

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Derek Nguyen, Pastor of Spiritual Development;
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Administrative Assistant;
Joyce Drozda, NS & Church Accountant; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;
Bridget Musante, NS Executive Director