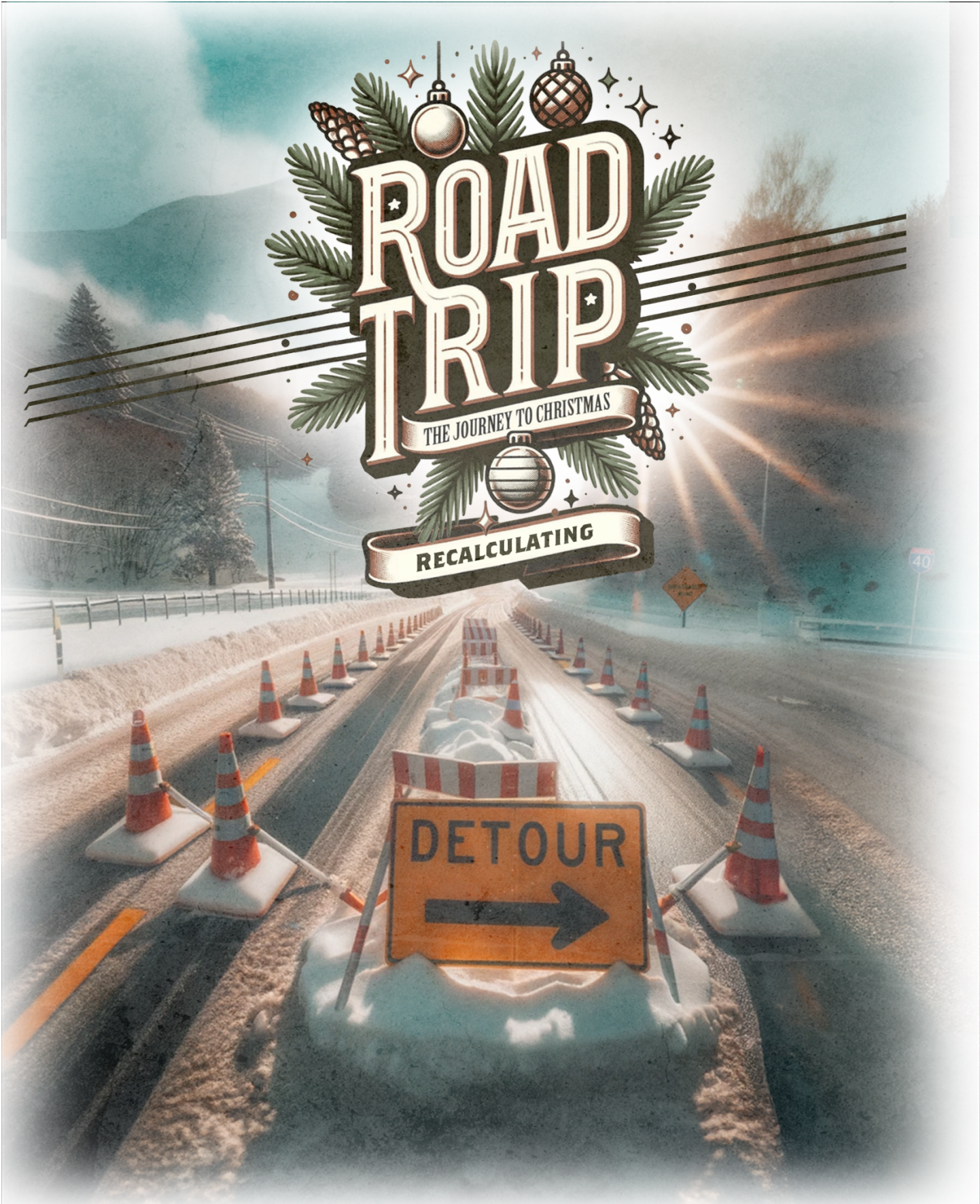


# ROAD TRIP

THE JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS

RECALCULATING

DETOUR  
→



## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*Prelude on "Immaculate Mary"*

Jamis Dunson Wilson  
©2006 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

### Call to Worship

One: Our journey may lead us on unexpected paths, and we sometimes find ourselves on detours.

**All: Yet even in the twists and turns, God is with us, along the way.**

One: Sometimes the roadblocks and reroutes are not distractions, but divine detours leading us closer to God's heart.

**All: With trust, we follow the path before us, knowing that at every turn The Spirit is with us.**

One: Come, travelers of the Advent road, let us worship, and let our hearts be open to the unexpected paths God sets before us.

**All: Steer us, O Lord, on this Advent drive. Navigate our course, illuminate our journey, and fuel us with the hope of your imminent arrival.**

Prelude

*Reflection on "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

John Carter  
2006 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

Introit

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

UMH 213

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 1-4*

UMH 211

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

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

2. 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.

Refrain

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

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

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

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,  
an ensign of thy people be;  
before thee rulers silent fall;  
all peoples on thy mercy call.

Refrain

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

### **Blessing for Young Hearts**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy**

**Congregation:**

**We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying.  
Online Worshipers may type prayer requests in the Live Chat, taking care for privacy.*

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **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.

### **Prayer Response**

*Emmanuel*

UMH 204

## WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

### Scripture

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (CEB)

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

This is John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

John confessed (he didn't deny but confessed), "I'm not the Christ."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

John said, "I'm not."

"Are you the prophet?"

John answered, "No."

They asked, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied,

"I am a voice crying out in the wilderness,  
Make the Lord's path straight,  
just as the prophet Isaiah said."

Those sent by the Pharisees asked, "Why do you baptize if you aren't the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

John answered, "I baptize with water. Someone greater stands among you, whom you don't recognize. He comes after me, but I'm not worthy to untie his sandal straps." This encounter took place across the Jordan in Bethany where John was baptizing.

### Scriptural Response

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

All: **Thanks be to God! Amen**

### Anthem

*Love Came Down*

Hank Bentley/Lindsey Sweat  
Arr. Luke Gambill  
©2020 So Essential Tunes

### Message

*Road Trip: Recalculating*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

*A Cradle in Bethlehem*  
Jayson Coleman

Al Brockton/Lawrence Stock  
©1952 Sony/ATV Tunes LLC

### † Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

### Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God, the stories of your faithfulness abound, yet we confess that we do not trust in your provision and care for us. We go our own way, longing for joy and peace, but not recognizing our need for communion with you and our neighbors.

**All: God, restore us to the joy of our common life in you.**

One: Loving God, we witness the struggles to live and thrive all around us. We confess that we are overwhelmed by what is required to love our neighbors. We hesitate to get our hands dirty to address economic insecurity, injustice against immigrants, lack of affordable healthcare, and food deserts. We doubt that we can really reduce violence in our community, increase safety and trust in our neighborhood, and work together to tend to the needs that keep us apart.

**All: God, restore us to the joy of our common life in you.**

One: Beloved, hear this good news: God's love never fails, and is always at work to bring us back to God and one another. 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 Hymn

*People Look East*

UMH 202

1. People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

### † **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

*In Ducli Ubi*

Franz Lizst/Arr. Hal H. Hopson  
©2006 Hope Publishing Co.

**Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church and the Road Trip: Journey to Advent* series written by Jason Moore of Midnight Oil Media.**

**Flowers:** Chee & Grace Chow's 51st Wedding Anniversary  
**Advent Candles:** Diana Prat, Evan Crowder  
**Organist:** Robert Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Cindy R., Janet Lind and Ann Gonsalves  
**Tech Team:** AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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### **LJUMC Ministry Team**

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Tara Limbaugh, Pastor of Connexion;  
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Office Manager;  
Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director; Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director