

ROAD TRIP

THE JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS

ALMOST THERE

EXIT

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Basque Carol/Arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Call to Worship

One: As our Advent journey draws near its end, the signs are clear: our exit is approaching, the destination is close at hand.

All: With eager hearts, we look ahead, knowing we are almost there.

One: The promise of Christ's birth, the culmination of our hope and joy, beckons us closer with each passing moment.

All: The anticipation builds, the excitement is palpable. We are on the cusp of a divine encounter.

One: As travelers nearing the end of a long journey, our spirits are lifted by the knowledge that the One we've been waiting for is just around the bend.

All: The star shines brighter, the way becomes clearer, and our pace quickens.

One: Let us worship with joy and gratitude, for the moment we've been waiting for is nearly upon us.

**All: Come, let us gather and celebrate, for we are almost there and He is almost here!
Come, Lord Jesus, for we are ready to receive You.**

Prelude

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

“Wachet auf”/Arr. J.G. Walther
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Introit

How Great Our Joy!

Traditional German Carol
Arr. Hugo Jungst
©1996 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1, 5-7)

UMH 211

Blessing for Young Hearts

Lighting of the Advent Candle

All:

We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all 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

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

Scriptural Response

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

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

Anthem

Noel
Chancel Choir, Joyce Theilacker, Solo

Matt Redman, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash
Arr. Heather Sorenson
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Message

Road Trip: Almost There

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Mary, Did You Know?
Lisa Corpron, Solo

Mark Lowry/Buddy Greene

† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Prayer of Confession

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† **Closing Hymn**

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High

Arr. Wilbur Held

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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.

Advent Candles: Marjorie Slankard, Evan Crowder
Liturgist: Evan Crowder
Organist: Robert Wuertz
Pianist: Rebecca Cosford
Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield
Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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