

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30AM, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Asterisk (\*) indicates standing, as able. Bold/colored type indicates text spoken in unison.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP      Responsive

People of the living God, come to the mountain of God.

**Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, prepare your hearts to hear the word of God.

**Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Children of the Holy Spirit, walk in the light of God.

**Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Come! Let us worship.

\*HYMN      "Earth Is Waiting"      UMH # 210

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      Apostles' Creed      UMH # 881

### OPENING PRAYER      Unison

**God of power and might, your majesty is greater than the highest mountain, your glory more radiant than the summer sun. As the days grow dark and the sun's light wanes, warm our hearts with the radiance of your love, that we might find our courage and walk by the light of the moon. As nations rise up against nation, strengthen our desire for peace in your name, that we might beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. Amen.**

### ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING RITUAL      Gail Lingerman

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON      Unison

**Eternal God, your offer of salvation is a gift beyond price. We know that the night is far gone and that the day is near, but we struggle to**

**rouse ourselves from sleep. We long to open our eyes and behold the glory of your dawn, but our eyelids have grown heavy and the light stings our eyes. We yearn to heed your summons and make a great pilgrimage of faith, but our need for rest seems greater. Call us once again, Holy One, for we long to hear your voice and know that salvation is near. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first came to believe. The one who came as child long ago, will awaken our hearts and give us peace. **Thanks be to God!**

## JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

### SCRIPTURE READING      Matthew 24:36-44 (NRSV)

**36** "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

**37** For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

**38** For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,

**39** and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

**40** Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

**41** Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

**42** Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

**43** But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

**44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

MESSAGE "Stay Awake and Be Ready" Rev. Dongkue Jee

## RESPOND TO THE WORD

\* HYMN "Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH # 211 (v. 1-4)

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH # 895

## OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH # 95

\*PRAYER OF OFFERING Unison

**We may not know the day or time of your coming, but we know that it is time to wake from sleep and to put on the armor of light. In gratefulness for calling us as your own, we offer you our thanks and praise. Receive the gifts of our hands, and use them to bring light to the darkness and hope to places of despair, through your Son, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

\*HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" UMH # 218

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Responsive

Go forth in faith during this season of Advent and put on the armor of Christ's light.

**As the days grow short and the sun's light wanes, we will shine for all the world to see.**

Go forth in love during this time of waiting and embrace the peace that passes all understanding.

**As disciples of the Prince of Peace, we will beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks.**

\* The offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to participate.

\* Fellowship follows the worship service. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parlor.



# Welcome to Mendham United Methodist Church

[www.mendhamumc.org](http://www.mendhamumc.org)

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

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Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Classic Banner, Year A, First Sunday of Advent, 1997,  
Vanderbilt Divinity Library staff,  
Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN, United States

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