

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30AM, December 7th, 2025

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

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

Beloved, we gather to remember who we are, not who the world tells us to be.

We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

We recall the story of God's people, how God has called us to live in peace and righteousness in a world full of conflict and twisted morality.

We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

We recount the story of our journey with God, the moments of God's provision, God's prodding, and God's prophetic guidance.

We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.

We gather to repent and return anew to God's story that guides our lives to work for peace and flourishing for all God's creation.

We gather to tell the story of the day that all the earth awaits.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH # 196

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed UMH # 881

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Loving God, be to us as a bulldozer of the spirit. Clear your road in us; clear a path through the detritus of possessions and obsessions. Thrust aside our divided aims and devious games. Topple the ramparts of pride and the doubts that deride. Make a highway on which Christ may come and take possession of the whole territory of our being. To the glory of your name, we pray. Amen!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING RITUAL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Blessed be the Lord our God, who does wondrous things (Psalm 72:8). The most wondrous of all being God's entry into our world in Jesus Christ, "not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." "Those who believe in him are not condemned" (John 3:17,18). **Thanks be to God.**

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-6 (NRSV)

- 1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
- 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
- 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"
- 4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.
- 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him,
- 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

MESSAGE “Prepare the Lord’s Way, Make His Path Straight” Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN “Spirit Song” UMH # 347

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION UMH # 13

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

Persistent God of new paths, we have been called to prepare the way-not with platitudes, but with changed hearts and lives. In this season of turning and anticipation, we offer these gifts as signs that we long to live by your story. Use them and use us to bear fruit worthy of repentance: fruit of justice, compassion, hospitality, and peace. Let our generosity reflect the nearness of your kingdom and the urgency of your call. In the wilderness of fear and want, may this offering clear a path for hope to be seen, known, and shared. In the name of the one who is coming and is already among us-Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” UMH # 218

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

* 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

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 7th, 2025



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

Rev. Dongkue Jee, Pastor
Cell Phone: 469-544-6373
Church Office: 973-543-6376