



Sunday Worship!

December 4, 2022 @ 10:30am

View today's service on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDE-J8SbGy4>

WELCOME ~*Jason McDougall, Musical Director*

OPENING HYMN - Angels from the Realms of Glory (220)

Verse 1

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight
o'er all the earth; ye who sang creations' story
now proclaim Messiah's Birth:*

Refrain

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship
Christ, the newborn King.*

Verse 3

*Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions
beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye
have seen his natal star:*

Verse 2

*Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your
flocks by night, God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:*

Verse 4:

*Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in
hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in
his temple shall appear:*

CALL TO WORSHIP~All

John the Baptist said, “*Prepare the way.*” So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?
We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts. We make space for God to speak.

How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

We bless all emotions. We feel what we feel. We open ourselves up to be moved.

How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space. We breathe in God’s mercy. We exhale God’s love.

How do we prepare our souls for worship?

We bring our full selves into this space. We wear our hearts on our sleeves. We trust that even now, God is here.

Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out in our daily lives. So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.

CANDLE LIGHTING

A: I dream of the first pitch of opening season.

B: I dream of a laundry day, where each sock finds its mate.

A: I dream of family home for the holidays.

B: I dream of good books and homemade meals.

A: I dream of sunset drives with the windows down.

B: These are beautiful dreams, but I also have urgent dreams.

A: I dream of conversations across party lines.

B: I dream of more bridges and less walls.

A: I dream of more laughter and less fear.

B: I dream of more listening and less tears.

A: But most of all, I dream of peace like a river.

B: Today we light the candle of peace.

Light candle.

B: May it remind us that there is another way. Amen.

INTRODUCTION/ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Pastor Lesli McGowan

OPENING PRAYER /ILLUMINATION ~Pastor Lesli

God of Peace, We must admit, there are a million things on our minds. We would like to be as focused as John the Baptist—preparing the way, gathering the crowd, spreading the word of your arrival. Maybe then we’d know peace. However, more often than not, we are a swirling compilation of grocery lists, text messages, e-mails, and over-referenced to-do lists. So today, we ask for your help in preparing the way. Could you start with our ears, and then maybe move to our hearts? We’d like to hear you more clearly. Maybe then we’ll know peace. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: *"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."* A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, *"Here is your God!"* See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. *Selah*

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, *"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,'"* so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, *"The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

MESSAGE ~ Pastor Lesli

SONG OF AFFIRMATION - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verse 1 <i>O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.</i>	Verse 2: <i>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.</i>
Refrain: <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</i>	
Verse 3: <i>O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.</i>	Verse 4 <i>O come, thou Root of Jesus's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.</i>

CONFESSIOIN ~ All

Holy God, I wish that peace was something I could buy. I wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service, found on a map, downloaded in an app, or voted for in a ballot. I wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when I was feeling my best. However, what I have found is that peace involves everyday decisions over and over, whether or not I am feeling my best. So today I confess, in front of this community of faith, that I need your help in this Advent season. Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach me how to be a part of it.

May God forgive you. May God's guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort. May you know peace.

Amen.

Holy God, We wish that peace was something we could buy. We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service, found on a map, downloaded in an app, or voted for in a ballot. We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when we are feeling our best. However, what we have found is that peace involves everyday decisions over and over, whether or not we are feeling our best. So today I confess, in front of this community of faith, that I need your help in this Advent season. Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach me how to be a part of it.

May God forgive you. May God's guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort. May you know peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER CARDS

Place prayer cards in the offering plate.

If you are remote, please advise prior to the start of service.

OFFERING

Make checks payable to
SUMC and mail or drop off at 325 NE Maple Street, Pullman, Washington 99163

OFFERING RESPONSE - *Emmanuel, Emmanuel (204)*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that a voice cried out in the wilderness, Saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord." And so, we show up in church pews on cold, blustery days. We march toward justice. We roll up our sleeves. We plant trees for our children. We make art. We choose hope. We gather at the Table. We set an extra plate. We sing loudly, with joy. We share stories and wisdom. We celebrate children. We fall together. We rise together. We love together. We do all these things because we believe that God loves us so much that God shows up here. So we prepare and prepare for that next beautiful day. May it be so. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~Pastor Lesli

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN - *Let All Mortal Flesh keep Silence (626)*

Verse 1

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Verse 3

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

Verse 2

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth be stood, Lord of lords in human vesture in the boyd and the blood; he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Verse 4:

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

CLOSING PRAYER ~Pastor Lesli

CLOSING HYMN - *Come Let us Dream (Worship and Song 3157)*

Verse 1

Come, let us dream God's dream again. Come, one and all, let us ascend the mountain top where those of old saw God's new day on earth unfold.

Verse 3:

When hatred ends and war shall cease, so all may dwell in deepest peace, then be assured the time is near when perfect love casts out all fear.

Verse 5

Prophets are scored in their own lands and martyrs slain by righteous hands; though dreamers die, the dream will live for we have yet our lives to give.

Verse 2

The lame shall walk, the blind shall see, the doors swing wide, all prisoners free, the lowly raised, the proud brought low. This is God's dream: let justice flow.

Verse 4:

But know the cost of claiming sight of God's new day, of wrongs made right, for some have paid the highest price, their lives for us, a sacrifice.

BENEDICTION ~Pastor Lesli

SUMC EVENTS

- **A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR SIMPSON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**
 - Tuesday, December 6, 2022 @ 1:00 pm, South Fork, 1680 S Grand Ave, Pullman, WA 99163, UMC will cover the cost
 - *Please make your reservations to attend by Sunday, December 4, 2022*
 - *Please contact Jeannine Rembert at 509 433-5859 or Kay Shew at 509 592-0444*
 - *Please bring your memories and photos of UMW events plus your appetite and smile.*
- **PRAISE BAND REHEARSAL**
 - Sundays @ 10am and Wednesdays @ 7pm
- **ELM CAMPUS MINISTRY -**
 - Wednesdays: Dinner @ 5p, Program @ 6p, Praise Band @ 7p, SUMC
- **FAMILY PROMISE**
 - SUMC will be hosting FP December 4-11, 2022. Help needed.
 - Set up/Take down
 - Greeting Hosts
 - Overnight Hosts
 - Housekeeping Needs
 - The following items are needed for Family Promise clients. If you can donate, please bring it to church on Sunday and place it in the grocery cart in the Sanctuary. You may also drop off items at the church during office hours; Monday-Thursday 11a-3p. **THANK YOU!**
 - Hats, gloves, scarfs, throw blankets, pillows, quilts