



impossible

Advent One

**The First United Methodist Church
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CCLI #1588788

***The First United Methodist Church of Oakhurst
Is a community of faith committed to Christ,
seeking to learn the needs of our members,
friends, and neighbors, and responding with Christian love.***

The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

9 :30 a.m.

*Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.

Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.

Hymnals: UMH is Red or Purple-TFWS is Black-W&S is Green

Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

INTROIT

Messiah

Battistelli

(Musical Score Printed Below)

**Long awaited, precious promise,
Son of God and Son of Man,
heaven's glory in a manger will come to us in Bethlehem.
Oh! Messiah, Messiah, a baby born to save us all.
Messiah, Messiah, on our knees we fall.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

CANDLE OF PEACE

This season of Advent...

... this candle in Peace.

**On this day, we remember the Lord of All who brings
Peace which passes all understanding. Amen.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let's turn to the Holy.

We come to worship God our Creator.

Come, bring your hopes, fears, and longing for a better world.

We come to praise the Prince of Peace.

Come, as your whole self – body, mind, and soul.

We come to receive the Spirit who gives us life.

ALL: God, as we attend to you, fill us with peace. Amen.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

CENTERING PRAYER

Holy One, we gather today at the start of this Advent season with expectant hearts. Slow us down, God. Calm our hearts. Still our minds. Help us to be present to your Holy Spirit nudges, so we can witness the unexpected ways you are at work. O come, O come, Prince of Peace. Amen.

ANTHEM

An Advent Acclamation
Chancel Choir

arr. Nordmeyer

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

WORD FROM THE PROPHET *Isaiah 2:1-5* Pew Bible OT 631

May God Bless Our Reading, Hearing, and Understanding.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Let There Be Peace on Earth

UMH 431

SERMON

~~Impossible~~: Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith
Peace Made Possible

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

During this time, you are invited to name your prayers for the congregation.

After each prayer request, the congregation will respond...

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

PRAYERS OF PEACE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

TFWS 2257-a

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Over the ages...

...we lift our voices to join the everlasting chorus:

SANCTUS

TFWS 2257-b

Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

CONSECRATION

Yet even now ...

...we sing the mystery of faith:

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

TFWS 2257-c

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

BLESSING

God of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love...

...to make the Christmas promise a reality. Amen

GREAT AMEN

TFWS 2257-d

Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP OF SALVATION

Come and be filled with the body and blood of Christ, knowing you are beloved and rooted in that love as you go forth to love all God's children. We will serve by **intinction**. You are invited to come by the center aisle, receive a piece of the bread, dip it into the cup, and partake. Return to your seats by the side aisles. You are invited to reflect in song as all are being served. There is gluten free bread and juice available.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

UMH 629

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy One, you have given yourself to us in the grace found in this meal. We give thanks for the way you nourish us in body and soul. As we are sent forth from this table of grace, may we be bearers of your peace, your hope, your joy, and your love in this season of Advent. Amen.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD...

Offering plates are available at each door as you depart.

You may also give online or by mail to the church office.

*PRESENTATION

UMH 682, vs.5

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we present our tithes and offerings on this first Sunday of Advent, we give thanks for the gifts you bestow upon us especially the gift of Jesus. May you bless these offerings and multiply them as we strive to do the work of your kingdom here on earth. May our work bring about peace and love to all. This we pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

UMH 218

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

*SENDING FORTH

*LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Love Has Come

Tune:W&S 3059

(Note: Weekly Word Change to Accommodate our Advent Light)

Peace has come and never will leave us!

Peace is life everlasting and free.

Peace is Jesus within and among us.

Peace is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Peace! Peace! Peace is the gift of Christmas.

Peace! Peace! Praise to you, God on high!

*POSTLUDE

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.

An Advent Study is offered to all at 11:00 a.m.

in Blair Chapel found at the rear of the Sanctuary.

***Our Service Of Worship Has Ended
Our Worship Through Service Begins***

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given in honor of Shirley Bailey's birthday (12/1) by her family.

Given in loving memory of Betty Beckmann by Peg, Kenneth, & Kimberly.

Daily Readings for the First Sunday of Advent:

*What do these Scriptures tell you about Peace Made Possible?
How do they speak to you about God, about Humanity, and about
the Relationship between the Two?*

Monday, Dec. 2

Psalm 124

Tuesday, Dec. 3

Hebrews 11:23-30

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Isaiah 54:1-10

Thursday, Dec. 5

Isaiah 4:2-6

Friday, Dec. 6

Psalm 72:1-7

Saturday, Dec. 7

Isaiah 30:19-26

Vocals

Messiah
(Light of Christ Enters)

Francesca Battistelli,
Jeff Pardo,
and Molly Reed

4
Long a-wait-ed, pre-cious prom-ise,

7
Son of God and Son of Man, heav-en's glo-ry in a man-ger

11
will come to us in Beth-le - hem. Oh! _____ Mes-

14
si - ah, Mes - si - ah, a ba-by born to save us

17
__ all. __ Mes - si - ah, Mes - si - ah, on our knees __ we __

21
fall. O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

25
dore Him, O come let us a - dore Him, Christ __ the Lord.

Words of Welcome

Welcome to this service of worship. We pray this service offered an opportunity to engage with the Divine. If we can be of service to you in any way, please let us know. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining together with us, where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

For Your Information

- There are **hearing devices** to assist you to experience the service more clearly with our streaming team, in the rear of the sanctuary. Feel free to pick one up.
- A **rocking chair** is available for the comfort of parent and baby, in the rear of the sanctuary, behind the pews.
- To access the **restrooms**, please exit the side door to the right of the lectern/chancel area. In the hall, make a left into Fellowship Hall and follow the signs.
- There are **infant changing tables** available in the restrooms.

Our Leadership Team Serving Us This Morning

ACOLYTE:	Mallory Mitchell
COUNTERS:	Patty Aria, John Montgomery, Judy Gorra
USHER:	Greg Scott, Robert Scott
GREETER:	Judy Smith
LAY READER:	Timothy Haider
FELLOWSHIP HOST:	Bonnie McNamara



This Week we hold in

Prayer...

Debbie Bruckmann & family

Our Homebound: David Miller, Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Madeline Starkey, Art & Carol Chasey, Pam & Cliff Miller

Our Church Family at a Distance: Barbara Novick, Jean Gillette, Laura Eble, Alice Timms

**The church has a team of prayers, known as the Prayer Chain. If you have a prayer need, please contact the office.

**If you know someone who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Jill Hubbard-Smith 732-209-4563 or revjimhs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

METRO-HIGHLANDS DAY OF PRAYER-The next prayer session is on December 3rd at 12 noon & 7 p.m. This is a time to pray for each other, our denomination, & the world. The zoom link can be found in *The Cornerstone*.

OUR ANNUAL VESPERS SERVICE will be held on 12/8 at 5 p.m. The service will be one of traditional Lessons and Carols and presented by the church choirs. The service will be followed by a Christmas tea hosted by the UWIF in Fellowship Hall.

POINSETTIA ORDERS-If you would like to place a poinsettia(s) on the altar for Christmas Eve in memory of or in honor of a loved one(s) or to mark a special occasion(s) please fill out an order form. Forms & payment are due by December 15th. Forms may be found on the sanctuary entrance tables or in the foyer.

Please Join Us In Mission and Ministry

Sunday, TODAY

Service of Worship In Person & Online	9:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - Downstairs	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m.
Advent Bible Study – Blair Chapel	11 a.m.

Monday, December 2

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m.

Tuesday, December 3

Women's Covenant Group – Library	8:30 a.m.
Naranon – Wesley Hall	11 a.m.
Scouts – Fellowship Hall	6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4

AA – Wesley Hall	7:30 a.m.
Alanon – Wesley Hall	9 a.m.
Kids' Christmas Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	6 p.m.

Thursday, December 5

Alanon – Wesley Hall	10 a.m.
Chancel Choir – Sanctuary	6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 6

AA – Wesley Hall	7 p.m.
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Sunday, December 8

Service of Worship In Person & Online	9:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School – Downstairs	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time – Fellowship Hall	10:30 a.m.
Advent Bible Study – Blair Chapel	11 a.m.
Vespers Service – Sanctuary	5 p.m.
Christmas Tea – Fellowship Hall	6 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

Secretary: Joy More

Director of Music: Denise Furda

Sexton: Lisa Costello

Streaming Team: Chip Stoll, Rob Crowther, Johnny Tocci

Director of Wesley Nursery School: Noel Worthington

Director of Music Emeritus: Gary Farquhar