

Advent 2020 "I Believe Even When ... Fill the Night with Music and Light"
Welcome to Worship with Memorial United Methodist Church

First Sunday – November 29, 2020, Worship Guide
(On-line Worship Video available any time after 8:30 a.m. Sunday, www.gladstonechurch.org)

We Gather to Worship God: *"I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow"*

Music to Center Ourselves: *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Kathy Young

Lighting the Advent Wreath with Prayer

Praise Team

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of untiring hope. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle—even when our view is obscured by clouds of doubt, ignite the flame of hope within us, that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out. Help us face this bleak night of the soul and embrace it as a womb of rebirth. Amen.

Now is the time to light one candle of your Advent wreath, the candle of Hope, where you are.

Opening Hymn: *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* UMH 196

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744. Public Domain.

We Share the Story of God

Sharing from the Prophet Isaiah 40:1-11

Marcia McFee Video

Thunder in the desert! "Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God. Fill in the valleys, level off the hills, smooth out the ruts, clear out the rocks. Then God's bright glory will shine and everyone will see it. Yes. Just as God has said." ... Climb a high mountain, Zion. You're the preacher of good news. Raise your voice. Make it good and loud, Jerusalem. You're the preacher of good news. Speak loud and clear. Don't be timid! Tell the cities of Judah, "Look! Your God!"

Scripture taken from "The Message" Isaiah 40:3-5, 9

Children's Time to Shine

Pastor Cathy

Making our own simple Advent wreath to shine our light and share our hope in Jesus.

Sharing from the Gospel of Mark 1:1-15

Jeanne Wescott

The good news of Jesus Christ—the Message!—begins here, following to the letter the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Watch closely: I'm sending my preacher ahead of you; He'll make the road smooth for you. Thunder in the desert! Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight! ... As he preached John the Baptizer said, "The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will change your life. I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism—a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out." Scripture taken from "The Message" Mark 1:1-3, 7-8

Witness of Music: “I Believe”

Jim and Jean Strathdee video

I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun even when, even when it’s not shining.

I believe in love, I believe in love even when, even when I don’t feel it.

I believe in God, I believe in God even when, even when God is silent.

Lyrics attributed to a poem found on a wall during the Holocaust.

Message for Today

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Sung Response: “A Star Shown Bright” W&S 3051

A star shone bright across the plain and calmed the earth so Love could reign. ’Twas in a child that hope was born, a dream fulfilled! O happy morn! O Son of God, Incarnate Word, O Wisdom’s Light, whom angels heard, come forth again, our hearts console. O heal our hurts and make us whole.

From Bethlehem come to our day; reveal to us your holy way. Be born again, Eternal Fire. O Spirit come, our souls inspire. O star shine forth once more this night and flood our streets with heavenly Light, till every heart in Christ shall see the glory of eternity!

Words: F. Richard Garland © 2006. Used with Permission

Offering Our Gifts and Commitments

Please give online at www.gladstonechurch.org

Or mail checks payable to: Memorial UMC, 1920 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

Offering Our Affirmations, Prayers and The Lord’s Prayer

Please email prayer requests to mumc@gladstonechurch.org or call (906) 428-9311

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Sung Blessing: “Believe” (to the tune of “Give Thanks” TFWS 2036)

Praise Team

Believe, with a hopeful heart! Believe, and shine your light! Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all! And now, let the weak say, “I am strong;” let the poor say, “I am rich because of what our God has done for us.” Believe!

W&S (Worship & Song), TFWS (The Faith We Sing), UMH (United Methodist Hymnal), UMBOW (United Methodist Book of Worship).

Sundays at 4:30 p.m. Please join us to light our outside Advent Candle, to offer prayer, and to sing a Christmas carol or two.

Mondays at 6 p.m. Please join us via Zoom to hear and discuss the Bible readings from Sunday, the beginnings of the Gospels: Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. Contact the church office by Noon on Monday to sign up. A few computers will be set up and available to use in separate rooms at the church.

Throughout this week, continue to offer your affirmations in prayer:

I believe that [complete this with a lament, a sorrow, or a confession] AND
I believe that [complete this with a prophetic word of change that gives you hope]