

McCORMICK METHODIST CHURCH
December 3, 2023 - 10:00 AM
First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Peggy Thomas

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Nativity *Hope* Lay Reader

Response *"Candle Light, Sacred Light"* Screen

The Blessing of the Advent Décor Lay Reader and Congregation

Leader: Today we prepare our House and hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ, our savior.

People: We make room in our House and Hearts for Jesus to enter in.

Leader: We pray that the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love in Christ.

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: We pray that this simple and circular evergreen wreath, a sign of life without end, may remind us of God's love without end. We pray that our Nativity scene outside reminds all that Christ is born into our world to save us.

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: We pray that this Chrismon tree may remind us that Jesus made the cross a tree of life and light, dispelling our sin and darkness, bringing complete healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come into our midst. Come into our hearts.

Come into our homes and our community, into our schools and workplaces. May we welcome you everywhere, making room for you, preparing for you, anticipating your arrival with joy and reverence. We commit this season of Advent to becoming ready.

Shine your light in those nooks and crannies we keep in the shadows. Sweep the cobwebs from our long-hidden doubt and fear. Repair our torn and wounded places.

We long for your arrival. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"* UMH 196

Prayers of the Church

Response *"People, Look East"* vs. 1,4 UMH 202

***The Statement of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed* UMH 881

The Scripture Lesson Mark 13: 24-37 Lay Reader

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem *"Soon and Very Soon"* Chancel Choir

The Message of Communion *"Where is Your Home?"* Rev. Ledwell

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Blessing

"Be Present at Our Table Lord"

UMH 621

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup and Prayer After Communion

God, giver of all gifts, we are blessed to be guests at your table. Let our hearts and souls be renewed in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and the sure knowledge of your grace. May the mystery of our faith — that Jesus came, was crucified and will come again — be truly enough to satisfy us in this Advent season. Amen.

***Hymn of Dedication**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" vs. 1,2,3

UMH 213

Presentation of Offerings

Sending Forth

We are loved by one God; we are redeemed by one Savior; we are empowered by one Spirit. This week, as the people of God, let us love the unloved and unwanted, redeem the battered and tattered, empower the weak and powerless, that God may be glorified in this world, now and world without end. Amen.

***Postlude**

*Please stand if able

Flowers on the Altar are Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
James Garland Campbell, Sr. and James Garland (Joe) Campbell, Jr.
On their December Birthdays by Linda and Jessica Kidd
