

Good Morning!

North Bend Church
a Global Methodist Congregation

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Because God is worthy we worship

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

POINSETTIA ORDERS: Please see the poinsettia order forms in your bulletins. Complete and return them by next Sunday, December 10. Money can be paid later, but we need to know how many to order by December 10.

FRANK'S TREE: Each year we light Frank's Tree with donations to charities. This year, the board suggested we split funds between Lane of Roses, supported by Hope Stephens' ministry, and Hope Restored India, supported by Laura Meyers' ministry. Each \$10 donation lights one colored bulb. Once all those are lit, representing \$200, a white bulb is turned on. After we reach \$2,000, the entire tree is lit up.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: Copies of our new directory are available on the tables near our church entrances. Each family is invited to take a copy for your personal use. If anyone would like to receive an electronic version, please contact Myra Roy.

TRAM: All non-perishable food, personal care and household items are welcome. The location is at the Miami Town Hall, 112 S. Miami Avenue, Cleves. TRAM is always grateful for monetary donations. Mail checks to TRAM Ministry Inc., P.O. Box 389, North Bend, Ohio 45052.

(Are there any other Announcements?)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today is the first day of Advent when we celebrate the coming of Christ. Each Sunday before Christmas, we light one of the candles in the Advent wreath. Today's purple candle represents hope, as represented by the prophets of the Old Testament who waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The purple color symbolizes royalty, repentance and fasting.

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: Come, people of faith, come join your hearts in worship.

People: We hear the invitation and hunger to join in the feast.

Leader: God is faithful and calls us into the loving presence of Jesus, who is the Christ.

People: We come to join with those who watch and wait and celebrate. Amen!

***Singing**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH #196

(vs. 1, 2)

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together¹**

O Holy God, maker of every thought and thing,

open our hearts this day, that we may know your presence in this time and place. Restore us now, so we may see the special gift and calling that you have for each of us. Masterful potter of life, mold us into the vessels you would have us be. Help us be ready for your promised return, when you will be among us and within us with new, creative, healing energy. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

Silent & Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Anthem

Reading the Scripture

Matthew 24:36-44 (NIV)

24: 36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the

angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

Joy to the World

UMH #246
(vs. 1, 2, 4)

**1. Joy to the world,
the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her King;
let every heart
prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
(and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
(and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven,
and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the world,
the Savior reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,**

**(repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
(repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat
the sounding joy.**

**4. He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes
the nations prove
the glories of
his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
(and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
(and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders
of his love.**

GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

***Receiving the Blessing**

Postlude

¹From "Worship Connection: December 3, 2023," by Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com.