

November 29, 2020
1st Sunday of Advent

<https://youtu.be/p9CC8if397M> - Worship Video

Welcome

*Welcome to worship at Menville United Methodist Church.
I am Pastor Jill Clem and I am so happy you are joining me today.
As we worship, I hope you will feel the presence of God*

Announcements

- We are following the direction of our Bishop Laurie Haller and the Appointive Cabinet in ceasing in-person worship due to the surge in Covid-19 positive cases in Woodbury County and the effect it has caused in overwhelming our local hospitals.
- We will return to in-person worship on Sunday, January 17th.
- Weekly Advent Devotionals to use in your home are emailed each Friday. If you would like to receive these emails, please email me at jill.clem@iaumc.net.
- Please note that the church building does remain closed to visitors. If you are in need of speaking to Holli or Pastor Jill please call the church office.
- Please be sure to check for updated information on our Facebook page and our website.
- You can find the full worship videos on our website at menvilleumc.org and our You Tube channel under Menville United Methodist Church.
- We encourage you to continue to mail in your gifts and offerings to the church office or you may set up online giving by contacting Holli our administrative secretary. You will need to fill out a form and provide a voided check.

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Hope

If ever there was a year, we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence." So, tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

We light this first candle as a sign of our **hope**.

Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1)
CCLI License #246781

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Unison Call to Worship

In the midst of frenzied shopping and end-of-year weariness, we spread out a purple cloth,

(a purple cloth is placed on the table)

read again the ancient stories,

(a Bible is placed on the table)

and light a candle in the darkness,

(the Advent candle light is recognized)

Gathered here we declare our intention to live as if the greatest gift in the world were about to be placed into our hands

(a gift is placed on the table)

and as if the Giver has understood our deepest needs, our most heartfelt prayers.

Like Mary, may we be surprised by our calling; like Simeon and Anna, may the years increase our faith; like sleepy shift workers on a hillside, may our eyes be opened; like Joseph may we listen to our dreams; for this season requires our creative imagination. There is a Presence in our world that asks to be seen, who will stay awake? There is a coming to our world that seeks a welcome, who will offer hospitality? Even now Jesus Christ is moving towards us.

Opening Prayer

Into our troubles and weaknesses,

Into the barren places of our souls, Come Lord,

Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the war torn and the refugee,

Into those who live in conflict, Come Lord,

Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the homeless and the unemployed,

Into those who feel abandoned, Come Lord,

Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the sick and the disabled,

Into those with Covid-19 and with cancer, Come, Lord

Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the poor and the starving,

Into those who are oppressed or abused, Come Lord

Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the lives of loved ones,

Into those from whom we are estranged, Come Lord,

Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into our joys and celebrations,

Into our work and our achievements, Come, Lord
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

O Christ we long for your coming. Hasten that day when those who seek you in every nation will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south and sit at table in Your Kingdom. Hasten the day when your Kingdom will come in all its glory and suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and death will be overcome forever. Hasten the day when we will be resurrected as a great multicultural family and live in peace, harmony, joy and love together in your kingdom. Lord, be with us all, for we ask these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

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.

Song of Preparation

Surely, the Presence of the Lord
CCLI: #2467810

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel His mighty power and His grace
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place*

Words of Preparation

O God, open our hearts and minds and souls to hear your word as if for the first time. Help us experience anew the surprise and joy that your presence in the word can bring us.

Scripture – John 15:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

Message

“Stay in Love with God”

Pastor Jill

Responsive Prayer

God of harvest, gardener supreme, you place us at the center, feed us, equip us and, having provided for us, look to a different harvest—a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others. God of harvest, feed us prune us harvest us that our lives might bring glory to you.

Song*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

CCLI: #2467810

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.*

Blessing

Go now, and love one another,
because love is from God.
Proclaim God's salvation to every generation.
Remain in Jesus Christ,
and like branches of a vine, draw your life from him.

And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;
May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;
And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord...In the name of Christ. Amen.