

# Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church

*A community of disciples for Jesus Christ, dedicated to glorifying God  
through worship, spiritual growth and service to others.*

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

***Service of the Word***

## **GATHERING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ the God of goodness and lovingkindness, whose Son was sent to save us and whose Spirit is poured out on us and renews us.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

**P:** God of steadfastness and love,

**C:** **we confess that we love the works of darkness more than your light. We have sought to satisfy our deepest longings through material things of creation rather than through you, our Creator. We are quick to judge others, yet fail to see our own failings. We ignore the cries of the poor and grow weary of working for justice. Restore us, O God; let your face shine on us, that we may be saved. Amen**

**P:** Hear the glad tidings of God! The Word was made flesh and lived among us. Clothed in our humanity, Jesus Christ is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters and claims us as beloved children of God through our baptism. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored to wholeness; in him we are free to serve God and our neighbor without fear.

**C:** **Amen**

#### **\*GATHERING SONG**

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

**ELW 250**

#### **\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*in unison, see insert*)

213

Omitted During Advent

**WORD**

**READINGS** (*See Insert*)

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11**

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*Light One Candle (Vs.2)*

**ELW 240**

**PSALM: 85:1-2, 8-13** (*read responsively*)

**SECOND LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter

C: **Glory to you, Oh Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:1-8**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

**Video Sermon**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

**ELW 256**

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)** (*read in unison*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*See insert*)

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING SONG**

*Salvation Belongs to Our God*

**219**

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**220**

**P:** O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C:** Amen.

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*in unison*)

**221**

**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 and ever. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*BLESSING**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

**\*SENDING SONG**

*Hark the Glad Sound!*

**ELW 239**

**DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Share the Good News!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**\*POSTLUDE**

\*Congregation Stands  
Congregational Responses are **in bold**

**Serving Today, December 10, 2023**

**Lay Leader:** Ruie Jones

**Lay Reader:** Tinita Stoker

**Serving Next Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**Minister:** Deacon Deborah Johnson

**Lay Reader:** Bea Isenhour

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS. “THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE...”** We will rejoice and be glad in it.” Thank you for choosing Unity as your place to worship this morning. If you would like more information concerning the ministries and outreach of Unity church in the community, please speak to one of our members.

**VIDEO SERMON:** Pastor Andrew Connors, a Sermon for Every Sunday.

**ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY** are given to the Glory of God by Adrian & Ruie Jones.

**OPEN DATES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS:** December 17, 24

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM. Traditional Candle Light Service with Communion.

**ADVENT IS** a season of anticipating the glorious birth of the Son of God in our hearts once again. To emphasize this as a time of solemn preparation, the Canticle (Canticle) of Praise will be omitted and the Nicene Creed will be used.

**THE SECOND CANDLE** on the Advent Wreath, which tradition names the Bethlehem candle, will be lighted today. It reminds us that the hope of the world is centered in an obscure, out-of-the-way place in which Christ was born.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL CONCERNS:** Judy Prince, Mary Lou Huffman, Bob Raby, Shirley Shannon, Glenn Davis, Bill & Farrell Gibbs, Kathy Whisnant, Sue Heavner.

**HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:** Candyce Webb, Kenneth Webb.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Cee King, Sue Rowland (Deb Johnson’s sister), Billie Detter, Charley Coulter, Denise Little, Katherine Jones, Brian Childers, Terry Jenkins, Michael Fox (Farrell Gibbs’ grandson), Judy Houser, Lesa Fox, Dan Drinkard, Diane Futrelle, Gay Apple, Cort Hollar, all public safety personnel and military personnel.

**PRAYERS OF PEACE:** All those affected by wars in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Russia.

### **UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A.**

3025 Falling Creek Rd., NE, Hickory, North Carolina, 28601  
828-324-1533

**Website:** <http://www.unitylutheran.net>

**Email address:** [unitylutheranoffice@gmail.com](mailto:unitylutheranoffice@gmail.com)

**Facebook(Unity Lutheran)**

**Sunday School**

**Worship 10:30am**

### Pastoral Care

**Deacon Deborah Johnson – (828) 291-4129 or [madeline5393@gmail.com](mailto:madeline5393@gmail.com)**