

HOLLY		Judy Arthurs
MINISTRY OF MUSIC	“Away In the Manger”	Children’s Chorus
NAVITY SCENE		Dai Morgan
MINISTRY OF MUSIC	“Hark, The Herald Angels Sing”	Eli Nitzberg, Trumpet
LIGHTS		Tina Whitehead
MINISTRY OF MUSIC	“O Holy Night”	Tommy Walters and Rebecca Spencer

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

***CHARGE AND DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**
Pastor: Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—For the light of God’s love is discernible everywhere.
People: We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder, and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.
Pastor: The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.
People: We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry. We will go forth from this place in hope.



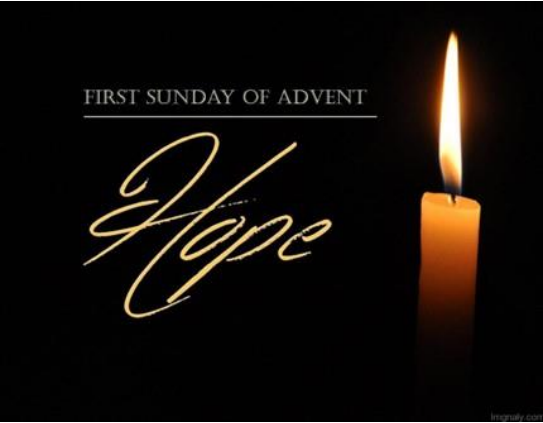
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	’The First Noel’	No. 245 (Refrain only)
*RECESSIONAL HYMN	“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”	No. 204 (sing twice)
*POSTLUDE	Improvisation on “Veni Emmanuel”	Herbert Sumson

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

This service is dedicated to Kim Weber Slobodnyak.
Kim was raised as a Mifflin Avenue Methodist and throughout her lifetime, she was an active member and dedicated volunteer for all things MAUMC. Some of the positions she held included MYF leader, Church Council president, Kitchen Guru (along with her forever sidekick, Nick) and Women’s Circle president. Near and dear(est) to her heart was the annual Hanging of the Greens service. Her passionate leadership shone brightest when she stood in the back of the sanctuary, directing and smiling at all who participated. Thank you for sharing in this Advent Service and continuing Kim’s Lasting Legacy. In addition, I would like to express my gratitude to all – young and old(er), regulars and visitors, those who live nearby and those who traveled to attend. We appreciate you sharing your gifts with us today and coming together.
~~Barbara Cooley Thaw



HANGING OF THE GREENS



December 3, 2023

Pastor Russel contact information:
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Email: Shulugarussel@gmail.com

Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 11:15 AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE	‘Chorale Prelude “Sleepers Awake”	J. S. Bach
GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS		

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT
“All Earth is Waiting” No. 210, vs. 1,2 & 4

CALL TO WORSHIP
Pastor: As we enter into this holy season of Advent, breathe deeply.
People: We are ready for this season of waiting and hoping.
Pastor: As we enter into this holy season of Advent, be alert.
People: God is with us, and we will pay attention to see God at work.

OPENING PRAYER
Living Hope, breathe into us, again, the breath of life. Breathe into us, again, the breath of hope. May this Advent season of waiting and hoping, be a source of life for us, and for the world. Amen

INTROIT “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” No. 203, v. 1

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Chorale: “Sleepers Awake” (harmonized) J. S Bach

*DOXOLOGY (tune - “What Child Is This”)

**“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost”
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe the son of Mary.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER
Pastor: Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope.
People: And we give in hope.
Pastor: Hope for your coming reign.
People: Hope because of your presence with us even now.
Pastor: Receive these generous offerings,
People: And use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. Amen.



HANGING OF THE GREENS



INTRODUCTION TO THE HANGING OF THE GREENS Barbara Cooley Thaw

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “Come Let Us Worship the King” Bell Choir

EVERGREEN WREATHS Sue Irons

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “The First Noel” Laughlin Mitchell

POINSETTIA The McQuade Family/Pease Family

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “Glad Noel” Chancel Choir

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY (The Candle of Hope) Gail Gratton
Leader: Hope is assertive, even aggressive at times. Hope fueled the prophet to call upon
God to tear open the heavens and shake the mountains so that we would all
tremble, remembering that there is a God, because the world has forgotten.
**People: But we have not. We cling to this hope that interrupts and shakes our lives
out of monotony, out of complacency, and out of despair.**
Leader: We light this candle, a spark of flame that ignites a rebellion of hope against empire,
against hate and against fear.
People: This is the fire that kindles inside of us and will not die.

HYMN (to the tune of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”) No. 211
Cello Accompaniment: Kim Viehland
**O Come and be the hope in all our lives.
Though chaos and confusion still survive.
We know the path of hate all too well,
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!
Rejoice, Rejoice!
Emanuel shall come to us And all things
Shall be well.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE Gail Gratton

PRAYER
God of Hope, our world has grown cold with despair, with hopelessness, with weariness and dread. Alight in us the fire of Your Spirit, a reminder that death never has the final word, so we might pursue Justice and live into Your ways and become living hope in a world that desperately needs it. Amen.