

Bible Reading for December 6

Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 ⁸Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. ⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Discussion Questions

- Every year in Advent, we have a chance to hear from John the Baptist. He cries out that we need to get ready! The arrival of Christmas also calls for preparation not just in our homes, but in our very hearts. How do you need to prepare for God to arrive this year?
- Are you and God at peace? •What steps do you still need to take to be ready for Jesus’ return?

As you ponder these things in preparation for Sunday, I would love to hear what God is saying to you. Call me in the church office at 256-353-6941 or email me at miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com.



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



SERVE the World



616 Jackson Street
Decatur, Alabama 35601
(256) 353-6941

CUMC@CentralUnitedMethodist.com
<https://CentralUnitedMethodist.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centralunitedmethodist



More Hope

Mark 13:24-37
Isaiah 9:2-7

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

Musical Gift

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Ritter

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath

Jim & Lise Green, Lou Lou and Jimbo

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.***

God of justice and peace, healing and comfort, we see all that is wrong and wonder where you are. We are a broken people, unable to work together for our common good. We cannot see or hear each other even within our own families and communities. We are a suffering world, our nations are filled with conflict and violence. The fragile earth cries out with longing for redemption.

We, God’s people, long for God’s presence, saying with the prophet: “If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!” (Isaiah 64:1, CEB)

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle of Hope to remind us of our longing that God will come into the world, bringing justice and peace, comfort and healing.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Miriam Smith

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Anthem

An Advent Imitation

Williams/Nolan

Bible Reading — Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Miriam Smith

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves

home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

—
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — “More Hope”

Rev. Miriam Smith

Choral Benediction

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Musical Gift

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Paxton

Organist: Virginia Paul

† *An Advent Imitation* by Williams/Nolan © 2010 Hal Leonard Corporation and Hal Leonard-Milwin Music Corp. CCLI # 2306531

Welcome!

We are so happy to be here together! Here are a few guidelines for how we can worship safely together:

Please stay seated until the ushers come to guide you out of the Sanctuary. If you would like to make your offering while you are here today, there is an offering plate by the door. You may also continue to give using our website or by mailing a check.

In order to help keep everyone safe, please take your bulletins and any trash with you when you leave.

This service will be livestreamed on YouTube and a recording will be posted on social media for watching at a later time.