

**Hearing enhancement devices are available at the back of the sanctuary in the lobby.*

Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

Veni Emmanuel
arr. Charles Callahan

Call to worship:

Call: Children of God, pay attention! The days are coming when God's peace will reign and all creation will flourish under the reign of our Creator.

Response: The days are surely coming!

Call: Children of God, prepare your hearts! The days are coming and are already here when God will come near and show us how to recognize God's reign among us.

Response: The days are surely coming and are already here!

Call: Children of God, be alert and listen! God has come near to build the kingdom on the earth here and now. Will you join in?

All: The days are surely coming and are already here! We come to prepare our hearts to pay attention, to listen, and to follow God's call to build the kingdom of earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

~© 2011 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission. Posted on the Geelong City Parish UCA website.

Opening Hymn (please stand as you are comfortable)

O come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211

Advent Candle Lighting

Allen Jones & Joan Alton

Morning Prayer

**We will conclude this prayer by reciting "The Lord's Prayer." If you are unfamiliar with this prayer, you are invited to follow along up on the screens.*

First Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

A Child is Gonna Come
by Pepper Choplin
Wendy Russel, solo

Doxology (please stand as you are comfortable)

UMH 95

Final Scripture Reading

Luke 16: 1-13

Message

Come, Let Us Adore Him:
Preparations
Rev. Matt Bridges

Communion

Closing Hymn (please stand as you are comfortable)

People Look East

UMH 202

Benediction

Postlude

Procession on Wachet auf (Translated "Wake Up")
arr. Charles Callahan

Advent Reading: Week 1

Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

Choosing Kindness

We were visiting family out of state when the big snowstorm hit Santa Fe. Our next door neighbors, who were coming over to feed our cat, texted me and told me about all the snow. They knew I would have to be able to drive into our garage to get Dave into the house, since it is very hard for him to walk—and the wheelchair would not help in the snow either!

Those kind neighbors spent much time during the next days driving up and down our 200' driveway to pack snow down - and shoveling a very large area in front of our garage! And they cleared a path to our front door too. What a great welcome when we came home after dark on Saturday! Even if we had been home, I could never have done all that by myself.

From Jane Thomas, featured in our Enews two weeks ago

Finding Your Fit With St. John's

There are many ways you can get plugged into your church home. After filling this out, please detach and place it in an offering plate and you will be contacted to get plugged in! With St. John's, it's not "if" you fit, but "how."

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Put a Checkmark below next to some of the areas you are interested learning more about.

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This Week In The Life of St. John's

Mon. Dec. 02, 2024

12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor
6:00 pm Pickleball, Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study, Bell Room

Tues. Dec. 03, 2024

8:30 am-12:30pm Bag N' Hand Food Pantry (volunteer times)
12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor
4:00 pm-6:00 Bag N' Hand Food Pantry Evening Distribution (volunteer times)
6:00 pm Alcoholics' Anonymous, Men and Women Group, Parlor
6:00 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics, Bell Room
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Fellowship Hall

Wed. Dec. 04, 2024

12:00 pm Soul Break
1:00 pm Women's Book Study
6:00 pm Pickleball, Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Choir, Choir Room

Thurs. Dec. 06, 2024

12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor
6:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous Women's Group, Chapel
6:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous Men's Group, Parlor
6:00 pm ALANON Women's Group, Bell Room
6:00 pm recovery group: Spirit Folx, Chapel

Fri. Dec. 07, 2024

9:00 am AA Parlor
12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor

Sat. Dec. 08, 2024

Sun. Dec. 09, 2024

9:30 am Morning Worship:
10:30 am Morning Fellowship Time, Gathering Room

5:00 pm Youth Group: Our location Changes from week to week. To be a part of the youth group, reach out to Pastor Matt at 936-661-2843 to be added to the youth list.