Elm Grove United Methodist Church



December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

Welcome Announcements

Gathering Words

Christmas comes, but not yet.

Before we celebrate, let us wait, taking time to remember who is coming, time to prepare our lives, time to look outwards in love: "Christmas waits to come.

Gently count the days: time to wait and walk with God, time to fill with praise."

Prelude

Anita Chops

Advent Candle Lighting Hymn

"Christ, Be Our Light!"

on screen

Litany

Leader: Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God's eternal time. *All:* How long, O LORD, how long? *Leader:* For those waiting for answered prayer: *All:* Grant your steadfast patience. *Leader:* For those waiting in the face of uncertainty: All: Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.

Leader: For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

All: Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.

Leader: For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:

All: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Lighting the 1st candle of Advent

Congregation Sings (on screen)

*Hymn

"God Almighty, We Are Waiting"

on screen

*Opening Prayer

As the sun rises, so does our prayer, loving God. With each new dawn, renew our trust in you, our delight to do justice, and our gladness to be in your presence. Amen.

Sharing Joys & Concerns Pastoral Prayer

The LORD'S Prayer UMH #895 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.

Offering of Gifts, Prayers, & Tithes

Special Music	Anita Chops, Jane Gracey & Wayne McCord	(8:30)
	"In Silence We Wait" Chancel Choir (11:00)	by Parker & Larson
Presentation of our Gifts *Doxology	"What Gift Can We Bring"	UMH #87, vs. 2

*Prayer of Dedication You have enriched us in every way, O God, through our faith in Christ Jesus. You have granted us grace and blessed us with every spiritual gift. In gratitude for your many blessings, we offer our tithes and offerings this day. Enrich and bless these gifts, that they may go into the world and help build your kingdom. Amen.

*Hymn	"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"	UMH #196
Dismissal for Children's Church (ages infant to 5 th grade)		11:00am service
Scripture		Psalms 130
Message	"Taking Time to Wait"	Rev. Debra Dague

Prayer of Confession Loving and gracious God, you are so patient with us. We run away, and you seek us. We rush into things only to make foolish choices, and you teach us the better way. Help us LORD to be patient and to wait in hope for your timing.

Words of Assurance Friends, trust and believe the promises of God through the apostle Paul: The grace of God...has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind,...so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our LORD Jesus Christ.

Communion (see insert/screen)

*Hymn *"People, Look East"* UMH #202, vs. 1, 3, 4

*Benediction God of all creation, we declare that you are the Eternal One. We confess to you, O LORD, that we easily grow impatient, when your word to us is to wait. Ignite within us a new and everlasting hope. We pray this in the name of Christ, our LORD. **Amen.**

Anita Chops

*Postlude

"The United Methodist Hymnal" © 1989

"The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023" © 2022

"Worship & Song" © 2011

"Advent Christmas and Epiphany" © 2008

"Christ, Be Our Light!" by Bernadette Farrell and Joel Raney © 2013

December Worship Schedule

10th - 8:30am & 11:00am Sunday Worship

17th - 8:30am & 11:00am Sunday Worship 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service

24th - 10:30am Communion Service 7:00pm Christmas Cantata Service

31st - 10:30am Sunday Worship Service

MISSION OF THE MONTH



House of the Carpenter

Hats, Scarves & Gloves



You may drop your donation at the church during regular office hours or Sunday mornings. Monetary donations are always welcome, just mark the memo line of your check "Mission Group". Nancy King is making church t-shirts again.

If you would like to order a t-shirt, please sign-up at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex.



<u>We are still in need of volunteers for</u> <u>Children's Church/Nursery Care</u>

Please choose a Sunday and sign-up at the Welcome Desk.

We appreciate your willingness to help grow your church.



The United Women in Faith are having a Christmas Luncheon December 14th at 12:00pm.

If you are interested in attending, please sign-up at the Welcome desk in the Narthex.