

† *Please stand as you are able*

*Prelude*

*Desiree Davis-Omburo*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Chiming the Trinity**

**Lighting of the first Advent Candle—Sanctified Art**

*Zephyr Randall*

How does a weary world hope?

**By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

By praying for children as they grow and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

**By insisting that small acts can make a difference.**

There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

**With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.**

**Choir Anthem "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Mark A. Miller**

**Call to Worship—***from Sanctified Art*

*Pastor Adam*

In God's house, we can be joyful.

**We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.**

In God's house, we can be weary.

**We can be anxious. We can be grieving.**

In God's house, we can be honest—

**inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.**

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

**Let us worship our loving God.**

**Opening Hymn**

"O God of Every Nation"

UMH 435

**Hanging of the Greens liturgy (insert)**

*Cassandra Randall*

**Hymn**

"People Look East"

UMH 202

**Prayer for Illumination (In Unison)**

Loving God, the source of our joy, as we turn our hearts toward your Word, we ask that you would soften us. Weave yourself in between the cracks in our

spirits. And plant hope where there is room. And as you do this, like flowers toward the sun, we will turn ourselves toward you, eager to hear your Word. With openness and gratitude we pray, amen.

**Old Testament Reading:**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Autumn Boyer

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 13:24-37

**Prayer of Confession:**

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

**Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.**

**Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

**Forgive us for creating so many distractions.**

**Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

**Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.**

**Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.**

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

**Forgive us. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" God's love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me:

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

† **Passing of the Peace**

**Sermon (on Isaiah 64:1-9)**

*Pastor Adam*

**Holy Communion**

**Prayer After Communion—***Sanctified Art*

God of angel choruses and teenage mothers, there are a million other places we could be, but today we wanted to be here. Today, we *needed* to be here—online and in person, worshipping together. For when we gather around this Table, we remember the ways that you always make room for us. You are always pulling up chairs, welcoming the children, the tax collectors, and the outcast. At your dinner party, no one gets turned away. Help us to carry that inclusive spirit into the rest of our lives, for we know that love like that is what turns weariness into joy. With grateful hearts we pray, amen.

†Closing Hymn

*Soon and Very Soon*

UMH 706

†Benediction

†Chiming the Trinity

†Postlude

*Desiree Davis-Omburo*

#### Announcements:

- Christmas card bags will be available in the Sunday School hallway next Sunday.
- This Wednesday, Coffee with the Pastor is at Starbucks @ 9:30-12 PM.
- We'll be doing **Reverse Advent Bags** during Advent, and you are invited to bring them on (or before) Christmas Eve service @ 4 PM.
- **From the Missions Team:** the PTA of Parkwood Elementary is currently receiving \$50 grocery gift cards until December 8<sup>th</sup> to give to families who need them and whose kids go to Parkwood Elementary. If you would like to give a gift card, please write a check to "Parkwood UMC" and put "Grocery Cards for Parkwood E." in the memo line. The church will purchase the gift cards and deliver them to Principal Farrington on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **On Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>,** there will be no Sunday School, our last **Advent service will be @ 9:30 AM,** and our **Christmas Eve service will be @ 4 PM.**

# Parkwood United Methodist Church



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## God as Potter & Parent

Sunday, December 3, 2022 • 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent