

† Please stand as you are able

Please fill out the guest, friend, or member card located in your pew and put them in the offering plate.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming the Trinity

Call to Worship: *Psalm* 100 (the Message)

On your feet now—applaud God! Bring a gift of laughter,
sing yourselves into his presence.

³ Know this: God is God, and God, God.

He made us; we didn't make him.

We're his people, his well-tended sheep.

⁴ Enter with the password: "Thank you!"

Make yourselves at home, talking praise.

Thank him. Worship him.

⁵ For God is sheer beauty,

all-generous in love,

loyal always and ever.

† *Opening Hymn* Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates **UMH 213**

Lighting of the first Advent Candle

Today we light the candle of hope to remind ourselves that God is at work in this world. (*light candle*) May the light of this candle be a sign of the light God has put within our hearts.

All: May God's light burn within us this week, inspiring hope and action of living into God's good future today. Amen.

Choir Anthem "Advent Echo Carol" by Mary Kay Beall Desiree Davis-Omburo

Hanging of the Greens (see bulletin insert)

Children ages 0-5 may be dismissed to the nursery AFTER hanging of the greens, and they may return to receive Holy Communion.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, whether it's through angels or music, friendships or sermons, study or nature—when you speak, we long to hear it. Speak to us today through the

Scriptures. In a world as chaotic and broken as ours, we could use your words of truth, hope and healing. With gratitude we pray, amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

† *Song during the Offering:*

Wait for the Lord

WS 3049



The Doxology (to the tune on UMH 95)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures high and low.

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit One.

Amen.

QR Code to PUMC Giving

† *The Doxology*

Sermon

Linnie Skidmore

HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options—to stay homesick for the world you want and want us to help you build, or to allow fear, cynicism, and despair to win the day. Do we hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for our sins—for all that keeps us from participating in creating Your world—and for when we have allowed worry, fear, and despair to win. Heal our apathy. Resurrect us from despair. Bring us back to our senses. Strengthen and embolden us to recommit ourselves to live with faith, hope, courage, and love. Re-ignite in us a hope that won't let go, amen.

Words of Assurance:

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love, so let us hear the words, "do not be afraid" anew for us today. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are at home with God. Thanks be to God!

Amen.

† **Passing of the Peace**

At this time, you may greet your neighbor with signs of peace, and the children from the nursery are invited to return to receive Communion

Liturgy for Holy Communion continues on UMH 15

† **Hymn** Sung during Receiving of Holy Communion “Let Us Be Bread”x4 WS 2260

Prayer Following Communion

We thank You, O Lord, that You have given Yourself to us, fed us with Your very self, cleansed us with Your blood, and sustained us with Your Holy Spirit. As we have been fed, send us out to be Your Body in the world, who are taken, blessed, broken, and given for others. Amen.

† **Closing Hymn** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus **UMH 196**

† **Benediction**

† **Chiming the Trinity**

† **Postlude**

Parkwood United Methodist Church



“The Hour Glass,” Oxford University Press

<https://www.poynter.org/reporting-editing/2003/the-hourglass-serving-the-news-serving-the-reader/>

Hanging of the Greens Service

Sunday, December 1, 2024 • 1st Sunday of Advent