

November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE AND BELL RINGING
ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS and CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of justice and of peace – You color the world with mercy and kindness.

People: We stand in awe and wonder before Your marvelous artistry.

Leader: God of promise and of love – You illuminate the skies with rainbow and sun-ray.

People: We rejoice in the majesty of Your creation.

Leader: The spectrum of Your love reveals light all around. The hues of Your love warm our spirits. The vibrancy of Your love saturates us with hope.

People: Blessed is the God of love whose art expressed in Christ we anticipate.

Leader: We light this candle in abundant hope that the radiance of You, O God, will shine in our hearts, coloring us with hope, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

All: We who wait on the Lord are filled with hope.

***HYMN** *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* #86 UCC

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Coming Christ, You may not find us as You hoped. We’ve looked away from signs we do not wish to see. We’ve stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear. We are numb to inconvenient truths. Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Show us signs of Your coming, that we may stand before You, the Son of Man, in whose name we pray. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: As sure as the fig tree blossoms, so sure is the salvation of God, poured out for the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. Believe the Good News. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

P: We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE** *“Gloria Patri”*

INVITATION TO CHILDREN (*Jesus Loves the Little Children*)
CHILDREN’S TIME

***HYMN** *“Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”* #79 UCC

OFFERING OF OUR TIME, OUR TREASURES, OUR VERY SELVES

**We Give Thee But Thine Own* #351 UCC

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, Originator of all gifts, this day and always, we celebrate the gifts of our hands and hearts. We share our talents and time, knowing our energy builds the world we love. We share our treasures knowing that all gifts we entrust to Your Church will build Your realm. With joy, we devote our first fruits to loving You and Your children. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Old Testament Isaiah 9:2-6
New Testament Matthew 24:36-44

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Leader: This is the promise of God, to our ancestors and to us.

People: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE "Ready or Not!"

***CLOSING HYMN** *"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* #250 UCC

***DISMISSAL**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - Guest Speaker Darrell Thompson

We will decorate the church for Christmas TODAY at 6 p.m. Kids should go to the fellowship hall for Christmas Eve program practice and to help decorate the tree there.

Women's Fellowship will meet this Wednesday, Dec. 3, with a carry-in at noon. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin strip. Roast beef will be provided. Cookies will be packed for those in need. Each member should bring about 3 dozen individually-wrapped cookies. The business meeting will be at 1:30 p.m.

Youth Fellowship will meet next Sunday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. Please reach out to Jared Roskamp or Michael Hoener if you know high schoolers who may be interested in being involved.

The Christmas Eve program is Come and Adore Him. If you are interested in joining the choir (currently 8 members) or reading scripture, please contact Tami Roskamp.

The live nativity for Warsaw Christmas on Main needs volunteer men, women, and children for half-hour sitting times Saturday, December 13, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. If interested, please contact Deb Althide (309-337-3311) or Jane Roskamp (309-333-0778).

SAVE THE DATES:

- Decorating for Christmas: TODAY, November 30, 6 p.m.
- Women's Fellowship Meeting: Wednesday, December 3, 12 p.m.
- Youth Fellowship Meeting: Sunday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.
- Soup Supper: Saturday, January 17
- Women's Bible Study: Mondays, 9:30 a.m.
- Confirmation Class: Sundays, 9 a.m.

Jane Roskamp is greeter today, Brad Doyle next week. Thanks to the greeter, Darrell, the musician, AV tech - all who helped with the service.

WELCOME ALL! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register and come again.

Bethany United Church of Christ

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