

## SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

We welcome you to this celebration and invite you to consider our church if you are seeking a church home, to walk and grow in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

\* Indicates people are to stand, if able.

**Bold text is to be read by the congregation.**

|         |                 |         |
|---------|-----------------|---------|
| PRELUDE | LIGHT OF CHRIST | WELCOME |
| SHARING | MINISTRY MOMENT | PRAYER  |

ADVENT READING (sing TWFS# 2090 v.1-2 when directed)

\*HYMN “Good Christians Friends, Rejoice” UMH# 224

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This day is a day of preparation.

**P: Open our hearts, O Lord, and make us ready to receive you.**

L: Repentance, changing our attitudes, our lives, is the beginning of our preparation.

**P: Lord, give us courage and confidence.**

L: God will fill us with joy and peace as we become witnesses to God’s love.

**P: Lord, help us to be faithful servants all of our days. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC/FAVORITE HYMN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive your words of hope. We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from your light to the darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive**

**us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the ways in which we have rejected your presence; ways in which we have truly failed to be your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives, that your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this very day. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though the darkness seems so deep, do not fear. God is with us. Repent! Turn your lives to God. God’s love is being poured out for you, always. **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UMH# 881

GLORY SIGHTINGS ... where have you seen God at work?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

All are invited to share your joys and concerns to the Lord.

Following each, our response: **Gracious Lord, hear our prayer.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS (Pg OT 627) Isaiah 11:1-10  
(Pg NT 159) Romans 15:4-13

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN

“Love Came Down”

UMH# 242

\*GOSPEL READING

(Pg NT 2)

Matthew 3:1-12

YOUNG DISCIPLES' MESSAGE

Roger Hladik

MESSAGE Repeat the Sounding Joy: Loving Joy Rev. Jena

OFFERING (If you are visiting with us today, you are not obligated to give.)

\*RESPONSE UMH# 95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of new beginnings, today we bring not just our gifts of money, but our very lives. We know we have fallen short of who you've call us to be. We have heard the call of John the Baptist to a time of repentance, and we know that call is for all of us. Help us to travel the journey of Advent with the resolve to live lives that more closely resemble the hope you have for us. May all that we dedicate here empower us and others to change direction and set our sights on a closer walk with your Son, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.**

\*HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH# 213

**\*BENEDICTION**

May you be blessed with a Loving Joy that reverberates deep in your soul, so that whatever life brings, you are inspired to repeat the good news that there are better ways of looking at the world, being in the world, bringing love to the world. And may you sing along with all of heaven and earth! **Amen.**

\*HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH# 211

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*POSTLUDE

Let us make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Anthon United Methodist Church

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in Advent  
Saturday, December 7, 2019



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We are glad you are here today. Thank you for joining us in this celebration of God's love for you. We pray this time will uplift you in your spiritual walk and you will feel God's presence here today... in this place. May you always find us to be a church of "open hearts, open minds, and open doors."

**Thank-you for all who serve in our church each week.**

Accompanist: Eileen Van Meeteren    Liturgist: Jake Mitchell  
Greeters: Jake Parker & Eileen Van Meeteren  
Ushers: Jerry & Eileen Klindt

**UP-COMING EVENTS**

- Today            Lighting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent candle by the Mitchell Family. Youth Christmas Program with supper following worship
- Dec. 8 2pm    Service of Remembrance at Armstrong-Van Houten Funeral Homes in Mapleton.
- Dec. 11 10:30am UMW plating cookies and potluck
- Dec. 11 6pm    Anthon/Rock Branch choirs will be singing Christmas Carols at Correctionville Nursing Home. Soup supper at 6 & singing at 6:30. Everyone invited! Come join us and spread cheer!
- Dec. 14 10-12pm Santa & Kids Shopping Spree in Mapleton

**Outreach Team** is asking for nonperishable food donations to fill the shopping cart in the foyer. Cash donations are always welcomed. Remember the **Angel Tree** at the bank with hearts; please pick up a tag for children in our community. Items need to be back at bank before December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Poinsettias:** Flowers may be brought to decorate the sanctuary any time from now until Christmas.

**Please pray for those battling cancer:** Jeff and Jamie Griebel (Jacque Gothier's brothers), Tracy Lewis, Steve Diamond.

**Please pray for:** our service men and women, our church, Bishop Laurie Haller, our community leaders, our president, our farmers, Bobby Lewis, Cal & Joyce Gothier, Lyle Schram, Kenny Anderson, Joe Harbaugh, Barb Madsen, Jerry Klindt, Keith Determann, Bettina Perkins, Brian Ashley, Mark Nelson, Wally Duncan, Ralph Diamond.

**Those in care facilities:** Anita Cooch, Nina Osborne, Beulah Sand, Scott Mastny, Ruth Cook, Betty Ashley, Ernestine Steinhoff, Keith Miller (A).

**Birthdays:** 12- Andrea Mitchell

**Saturday, Dec. 14th at 5pm:** Reader: Shirley Nelson  
Children Message: Connie Ashley  
Ushers & Greeters: Jerry & Eileen Klindt  
Dec. Cleaning: PPRC  
Lighting of 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle, by Klindt Family

**Advent Reading – week 2**

L: Holy God, you are the source of love.

**P: Let us repeat the sounding joy in our hearts this day.**

L: You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life.

**P: Let us repeat the sounding joy in our church this day.**

L: You are the one that helps us reach out in love, especially to those whose fear makes it hard for them to love.

**P: Let us repeat the sounding joy in the world this day.**

L: Help us when our fear gets in the way of joining the chorus of joy.

**P: Let us repeat the sounding joy in the name of Love. Amen.**

*Light two purple candles if not already done.*

L: Let us expand our hearts as we gather. Let us receive God's word as we proclaim. Let us transform our lives as we pray. Let us be compassion for the world as we greet one another.

**P: Amen.**

Let's join in singing two verses of hymn number 2090, "The Advent Song" found in The Faith We Sing hymnal.