

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CADILLAC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

ADVENT I - HOMESICK (HOPE)

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP (congregation in bold)**

Can you be homesick for something you've never known?

We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.

Yes, we are homesick - for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, for hospitals that run empty.

We are homesick for the world God promises.

We are homesick, but we are on our way.

God is here. God is still creating.

Let us worship our Holy God!

***OPENING HYMN - "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" UMH 694**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Song: "Make Of My Heart A Stable" by Amanda Udis-Kessler (used with permission)

Make of my heart a stable,

A house for the Holy,

A warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.

Make of my life a stable,

A house for the Holy,

A warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.

Make of our church a stable,

A house for the Holy,

A warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, We find ourselves with two options every day—to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against 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 the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (congregation in bold)

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. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 21:25-36

SERMON – “Homesick”

***HYMN OF RESPONSE – “See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting” (To the tune of “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” UMH 216) Lyrics by Anna Strickland, A Sanctified Art, LLC, sanctifiedart.org (used with permission)**

See fig tree leaves now sprouting, soon summer comes again

Creation groans in labor for God’s reign to begin

We wait with bated breath homesick for God’s true kindom

Age without hate or death

Sun, moon, and stars above us speak of God’s promised day.

To make space for our new home this world must pass away.

When we are filled with dread the words of Christ uphold us:

“Arise and raise your head.”

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral 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.

Prayer Response – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” v. 4 UMH 230

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving (congregation in bold)

May the God of every mercy be with you.

May you be filled with the tenderness of our God.

Lift up your hearts to the One who looks with grace upon us.

Confident of God’s love, we open our hearts to the One who comes to us.

Sing glad songs of praise in this moment.

We join our sisters and brothers in joyful thanksgiving.

Chaos could not endure the day of creation’s coming, Ingenuous God... With those who long for hope, with those who cry out for justice, we lift our joy to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, melter of our frozen hearts. All creation waits for your Advent once again. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the Dawn from on high. Hosanna in the highest!

You alone are holy, God of our hopes, and Jesus is your glory made flesh... As we draw ever closer to Bethlehem, as we prepare to journey with Jesus from birth to new life, we declare that mystery we know as faith:

Christ died, preparing the way for salvation;

Christ was raised through the baptism of the resurrection;

Christ will come again, dawn from on high of every time and place.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Offertory: (You may leave your offering in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary)

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN – “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

UMH 213

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Karen Sorden

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Office Hours (in Cadillac): Monday-Thursday, 9:30am - 1:00 pm.

Sabbath Day: Friday