

Celebrate

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025



What do
you fear?

WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT
OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK

First
Church

Celebrate December 7, 2025

We Gather

Welcome & Lighting of Candles

Prelude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Arr. Mark Hayes
Charis Vander Plaats, Piano

Call to Worship

Leader: Family of faith, God is at work!

People: God is healing and creating,

Leader: redeeming and dreaming,

People: calling and sending,

Leader: listening and loving.

People: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

Leader: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

People: May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Looking Out a Prison Window" ~ see insert

Candle Lighting

A: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

B: I see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

A: You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.

B: Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it. Light candle.

A: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, we need bread and we need laughter. We need music and we need a hand to hold. We need a chair to sit in and we need work to do. But maybe more than anything, we need your Word and a reason to hope. So move through this space today and speak to us as only you can. Speak a word of hope deep into our weary bones. For we need bread and we need laughter, but most of all, we need you. Amen.

Proclaiming

Message to Young Disciples

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:19-21

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:1-11

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Leader: The Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Message

Pastor Duane Carlisle

When We're Running Out of Hope, God is at Work

Responding

Pastoral Prayer

Moment of Generosity

The Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: With-us God, We live in a fearful world. If we're honest, we come to this Table today with the taste of fear on our tongues. We come to this Table carrying our anxiety. We come to this Table asking for guidance. We come to this Table with all of life's "what-ifs."

But you do not disregard our fear. You do not brush it under the rug or call us foolish. You do not ignore the realities in

front of us. You do not dish out hurtful platitudes, telling us to "toughen up" or "power through."

Instead, you meet us here.

You listen to our fears.

You remind us that we are not alone.

You surround us with people who love us.

You show us where we are strong.

You walk beside us.

And you give us a new song to sing.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come
again.**

Leader: Pour out your Spirit on this Table.

Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread.

Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary juice.

For the thing we fear the most is distance from you, so draw near to us here.

Saturate this room with your Spirit and this Table with your love. Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are on the move. Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are here,

inviting us to the Table, nourishing our spirits, reminding us that we belong, calling us by name.

Instill that good news in us, for this is a joyful feast. Fear is not the loudest voice today. What a gift that is. You gave us the gift of Jesus, your son, who, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

And when the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, so today we pray,

gracious God: replace the fear on our tongues with words of hope and songs of joy.

Now with hope for a better tomorrow, we join our voices together to pray the prayer your son taught us to pray, saying. . .

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.

Communion Music

"Wexford Carol" Boyer Family

Prayer After Communion

Sending Forth

Closing Hymn

"O Day of Peace" Tune: Sweet Hour of Prayer" ~ see insert

Benediction

The Postlude

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Arr. Judith L. Maggs Charis Vander Plaats, Piano



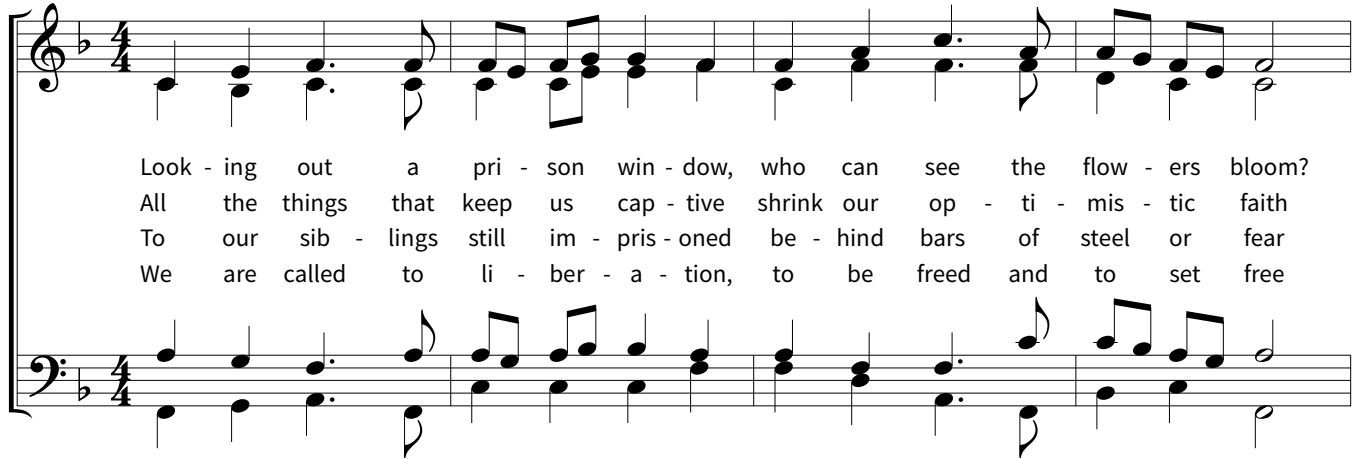
The Second Sunday of Advent | What do you fear?
WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK

Looking Out a Prison Window

IRBY 8.7.8.7.7

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Henry Gauntlett, 1849



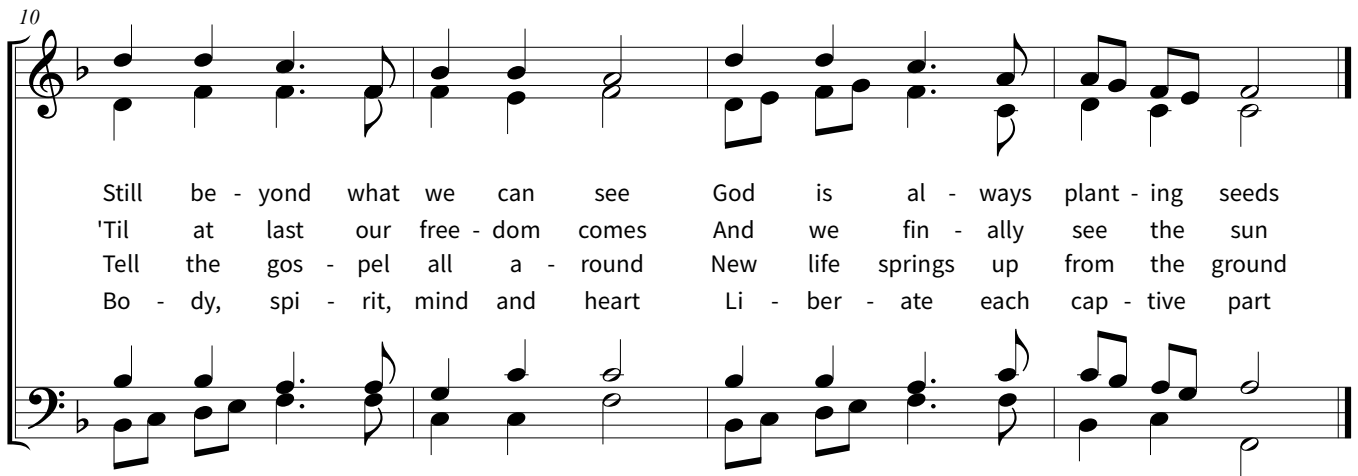
Look - ing out a pri - son win - dow, who can see the flow - ers bloom?
All the things that keep us cap - tive shrink our op - ti - mis - tic faith
To our sib - lings still im - pris - oned be - hind bars of steel or fear
We are called to li - ber - a - tion, to be freed and to set free

6



Hope dis - solves like dreams at day - break leav - ing us an emp - ty room
We must prac - tice hope on pur - pose e - ven when our spi - rits break
Bring the mes - sage from our Sav - ior: hope is real and dawn - ing near
Break - ing chains of world - ly pow - ers who would claim our li - ber - ty

10



Still be - yond what we can see God is al - ways plant - ing seeds
'Til at last our free - dom comes And we fin - ally see the sun
Tell the gos - pel all a - round New life springs up from the ground
Bo - dy, spi - rit, mind and heart Li - ber - ate each cap - tive part

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O Day of Peace

Tune: Sweet Hour of Prayer

O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the

ho - pes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice,
fie - rce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle

truth and love de - liv - ered from -- our self - ish schemes.
calm - ly graze a lit - tle child -- shall lead them all.

May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from
Then en - e - mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures

en - vy find re - lease, till. by God's grace our
find their true ac - cord; the hope of peace shall

war - ring world shall see Christ's pro - mised reign of peace.
be ful - filled, for all the earth -- shall know the Lord.

PRAYERS

CONCERNS SHARED

RENE REYNOSO, COUSIN OF LETTY MITCHELL WR MILLER
MARISSA ROWE, NIECE OF BARBARA KRAUSE MACE WILLIAMS
EMILY & JANE, NIECE & FRIEND OF MARY MAXINE ALL IN NEED OF PRAYERS

THOSE IN MEMORY CARE

JACK GAUNT PAT STAVER

OUR MILITARY

CDR JAMES BEATY SMAN KEVIN CLUTE LTC KEVIN FIELD HM2 KIM FOUNTAIN
AWR1 ISAIAH HALE MSG ANTHONY MAURO SMAN BEN RIDINGS LCDR ALEX TURCO
TSGT GERALD WELKER

LIVESTREAM

RILEY SCHELLINGERHOUT

ALTO

GAIL POLLES

LEAD PASTOR

DUANE CARLISE

WORSHIP TEAM

SLIDES

TOM DIENHART

SOPRANO

KAREN HULL

ASSISTANT PASTOR

KORY PRITCHETT

SOUNDBOARD

EVORA SCHELLINGERHOUT

PIANO

CHARIS VANDER PLAATS

MUSIC DIRECTOR

CHARIS VANDER PLAATS

GIVING



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BULLETIN



[HTTPS://WWW.FUMCWL.ORG/BULLETINS/](https://www.fumcwl.org/bulletins/)

GET INVOLVED

Tutoring Klondike Kids

Do you have time after school between 4:30-6 PM? Please consider working alongside Purdue education students tutoring Klondike Elementary School kids. On Mondays and Wednesdays, grades K-3 meet, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, grades 4-5 gather in the Community Room of the Point West Mobil Home Community in West Lafayette. Learn more at the "Get Involved" link on our FUMCWL.org web site.



Euchre Starting Early

We've changed our hours for euchre. Starting this month, narthex doors will open at 5:45 PM and will run until 8:30 PM. The date remains the same: the 2nd Wednesdays of the month. Our next play date is this Wed, Dec. 10. We usually have six or more tables each month and lots of laughs. Get on the evite list by contacting Jeanne Norberg jnorberg@purdue.edu.



Let's Sing!

On Saturday, Dec. 21 at 4 pm: Join us for Christmas caroling and a talent showcase in the sanctuary. Want to perform? Sign up by Dec. 17 at <https://forms.gle/Cd6S7SE7wsrrZYs19>.



We All Do Our Part

Office help is appreciated. If you can give two hours, 1 to 3 PM, on Thursdays, let Jeanne know at jnorberg@purdue.edu. Our next open slot is Jan. 8.



Sunday School for Adults and Teens

We've outgrew our room upstairs, so we have moved our Adult Sunday School to the Activity Center and for this Advent Season are opening it up to teens. Drop in and check it out. The theme of this church-wide study is a question, "What do you fear?"



Spread of Christmas Joy

On Saturday, Dec. 13, FUMC and other congregations will invite struggling parents to select free toys, gift certificates and food for their holiday celebrations. We call it Jubilee Christmas, which is organized by Lafayette Urban Ministry. Here's how you can help:

- Donate a Toy: Bring a new, unwrapped toy (ages 0-12) to the marked bins in the Missions corner by Wednesday, Dec. 10.
- Donate cookies: Bring nut-free cookies for the families by Fri., Dec. 12.
- Give financially: Make checks to FUMC with "LUM Jubilee" in the memo.
- Volunteer: Help sort toys by age on Thu, Dec 11 starting at noon.

Contact: Ronda at rkroesch@fumcwl.org or (765) 743-1285.



FUMC EVENTS & CHRISTMAS KINDNESS ADVENT CALENDAR

30

First Sunday
of Advent



1

Make a
Christmas
card for a
friend.

2

VNS
Christmas
Concert
5:30 PM



3

Make a goody
bag
for a friend.

4

Help to tidy up
your
classroom or
home.



5

ACORN New
Performance
Festival
7:30 PM

6

Breakfast
with Santa 9-
11 AM



ACORN New
Perf Fest
2:30/7:30PM

7

1st Sunday
Brunch
10 AM

Second
Sunday of
Advent



8

Tell a friend
thank you
for something
they did.



9



Offer to help
someone.

10

Euchre 6 PM



11

Help your
parents
around the
house.

12

Say thank
you to
someone
today.

13

LUM Jubilee
Christmas
9:00 AM
Bells & Flutes
free concert
7:00 PM
sanctuary

14

Third Sunday
of Advent



15

Show off
your best
manners
today.



16

Donate to
your
local food
bank.



17

Give your
Grandparents
a call.

18

Give a
love one a hug.



19

Pick up any
litter
that you see.

20

Tell your
family you love
them.



21

Carol
Sing-Along &
Talent
Showcase 4PM
Fourth Sunday
of Advent



22

Tell someone
a joke
to make
them laugh.

23

Make a card for
an elderly
neighbour.



24

Attend
Christmas Eve
services
at 7 PM



25

Wish everyone Merry Christmas!

