

**Martin First United Methodist  
Worship, Nurture & Serve**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 29, 2020**



**ENTRANCE**

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock.  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!  
Stir up your might, and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

**Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**196**

**OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION**

Lord God, let us again this year slowly approach the light and joy of Christmas Day when you bring us face to face with your love.

What can we possibly bring to you? There is so much darkness in our hearts. We are often defiant and often are careless. There is so much in our lives over which your angels cannot rejoice. There is so much that runs against the message of Christmas. As we make this confession, we also hear your gospel promise that You come to take from us our sin and the mess of our lives, in order then to give us Jesus in return.

We thank you and praise you. Through Christ our Lord, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and evermore. Amen.

**THE ADVENT CANDLE**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**206**

**ACT OF PRAISE**

*Advent Hymn*

**Virtual Choir**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**Video**

**PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**207**

**EPISTLE READING**

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GOSPEL READING**

**Mark 13:24-37**

"In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Human One<sup>a</sup> coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

"Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

"But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!"

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

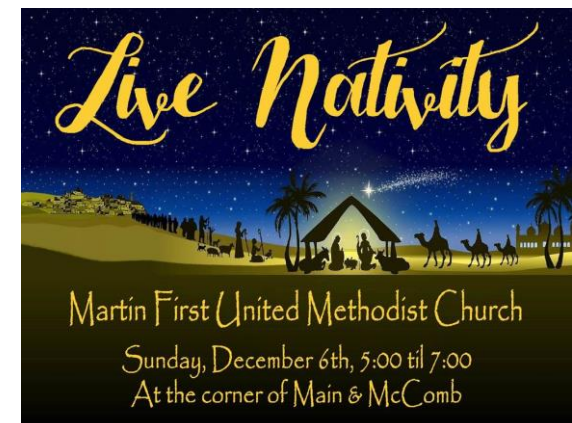
If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!

Mountains would quake before you like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil.

If you would make your name known to your enemies,  
the nations would tremble in your presence.

When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations;  
when you came down, mountains quaked before you. From  
ancient times,

no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any god but you  
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him!  
You look after those who gladly do right;  
they will praise you for your ways



But you were angry when we sinned;  
you hid yourself when we did wrong.  
We have all become like the unclean;  
all our righteous deeds are like a menstrual rag.  
All of us wither like a leaf;  
our sins, like the wind, carry us away.  
No one calls on your name;  
no one bothers to hold on to you,  
for you have hidden yourself from us,  
and have handed us over to our sin.  
But now, LORD, you are our father.  
We are the clay, and you are our potter.  
All of us are the work of your hand.  
Don't rage so fiercely, LORD;  
don't hold our sins against us forever,  
but gaze now on your people, all of us:

### SERMON

Randy Cooper

### APOSTLES CREED

#### PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

Speak, Lord, for we your servants are listening. You have the words of eternal life. In union with Christ, we pray to you, O Father:  
Renew our hearts as confess your name. Make us one in spirit and in love. Let your glory shine through us.  
Give your grace to us, to our families and friends, and to all our neighbors that we may serve Christ in one another and love as he loves us.  
Direct this nation toward the ways of justice and freedom and peace; that people will honor one another even with differences.  
We pray for everyone who suffers in body or in mind or in spirit. We ask for you to give them courage and hope. Restore to them the joy of your salvation.  
We pray for the whole of your world, that we may be faithful stewards of your gift of life, faithful in our stewardship of water, air, and land.  
We rejoice in the fellowship that we share with all your saints, both those who live and those who sleep in Christ. When our own time of dying comes, grant us to fall asleep in peace and to awaken in the likeness of Christ our Lord. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**  
**II. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, All honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.  
**III. Amen. Our Father....**

### SENDING FORTH

### HYMN

*O Lord, May Church and Home Combine*

695

### BLESSING AND POSTLUDE

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER CONCERNS: Ongoing Concerns:** Amanda Jackson, Cathy Dunagan, Charlene Freeman, Chris Smith, Mary Beard, Patrea Beard, Mary Nethery, Jen Galey, Bobby Wright, Cynthia Haley, Jane Guthrie, Alan Moody, Ann Pritchett, Virginia Clendenin, Marie Chester, Billie Sue Walker, John Overcash, Marilucile Counce, Jane Rawls, Bob Smith, Jill Brigance, Kathy Prewett, Angie Farmer, Gail Yates, Bishop Bill McAlilly, Superintendent Cynthia Davis, We Care Ministries.  
**Prayers for Friends and Relatives:** Dee Hudson's brother, Chuck Powers. Rosemary Coleman's daughter-in-law's mother, Joyce Ashe. Kathy DeWaters's husband, Ed DeWaters. Martin Asst. Police Chief Phillip Fuqua. David Murphy. Shantelle Gilliam's former kindergarten student, Landon Matheny. Laura Toney's brother-in-law's mother, Bobbie Jo Anderson. Jen Galey's mother. Linda Davis' son, Brian Davis. Jane Guthrie's mother, Margie Cooley. Donna Flynt's daughter, Linda Nethery. Staci Mancusi's grandparents, Dick & Doris Davidson. Susan Kilgas' mother, Shirley Byassee. Glenda Nanney's son-in-law, Michael Hester. Hal & Vicki Greer & Family. Angie Damron's son and Dawne Belote's brother, Steve Damron. Mack Thornton's brothers-in-laws, Butch Henley and John Kinzel and sister-in-law, Linda Cushman. Erica Bell's father, Don Griffin. Peggy King's son-in-law, George Frels and friend, Leslie Justice. Janice Merryman's cousin, Paul Blankenship. Gracie Davidson. Jeff Stockton's friend, Becky Tofte. Bill Stepp. Ben Luca. Jenise Butler's cousin, April. Susan Parr. Camille Legins' father.

**We grieve with** Mary Nethery upon the death of her brother, Jerry Sexton, earlier this week.

#### THANK YOU

Thank you for following the task of Romans 12:7-8 with your generous, faithful donation of \$550 to purchase clothing and food for the Christmas store. On behalf of the many faces you will never see or whose words of appreciation you will never hear, we sincerely appreciate your support. Please keep us in your prayers as we strive to share hope with those who come to this ministry for words of encouragement and assistance with their basic need. May God continue to bless you as you have so richly blessed others.  
*Betty Baker, We Care Ministries Director*

Monday is the deadline to sign up for **Mission Meal** of potato soup and cornbread to be delivered or picked up this Wednesday

In November we are filling **Mission Boxes** for local children (infant-teenager). You can make a monetary donation or donate personal hygiene items, small toys & games, winter clothing (hat, scarf, gloves & socks), baby items, and crafts. Reminder: the box size is 10X6X5. **Deadline is December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

#### Church Family Update:

Amanda Jackson had knee replacement surgery a week ago Friday.  
Cathy Dunagan is recovering from pneumonia.

#### Memorials & Honorariums

**Honoring and remembering those we love....**

**Budget Fund in memory of** Neil Rawls, Mary McConnell, Charles Nethery, Ann Wall  
**Organ Fund in memory of** James Eaton

***Have a Blessed, Beautiful, Bountiful Thanksgiving!  
You are in our thoughts & prayers!***

