

MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 29, 2026| 10:00 AM

Hanging of the Greens

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Edward Broughton

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

Glory to God in the highest!

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* CONGREGATION STANDS AS COMFORTABLE CONGREGATION RESPONSE IN ***BOLD Italic***

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS: The Faith We Sing ++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

In the darkest days of winter an evergreen tree brings hope of new life, reminding us of the gift of life we have through Jesus Christ.

Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this Christmas tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The circle of greens which form the Advent Wreath is a sign of life without end.

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

Come Lord. Jesus. Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Bill and Joan Arlequeeuw

***OPENING HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1) UMH 211++

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/ NOISY OFFERING

GOD WILL SEND A RIGHTEOUS KING Jeremiah 23:5-6

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. We place this cedar branch as a sign of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming, in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (verse 1) UMH 196++

THE PROPHET DECLARES A CHILD WILL BE BORN Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Because the needles of pine and fir trees appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we place this wreath of evergreens shaped in a circle, which itself has no end, to signify the eternal reign of Jesus, the Christ.

HYMN "People, Look East" (verse 1) UMH 202

THE FOURTH SERVANT SONG Isaiah 53:1-6

For Christians, this passage from Isaiah reflects the sufferings of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by death on the cross, and by his resurrection from the dead. In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of Christ's passion. Their prickly leaves suggested the crown of thorns, the red berries the blood of the Savior, and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we place the holly and the ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our Savior.

HYMN "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (verse 1) UMH 203

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-5, 9-14

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we light the Christmas tree. During this Advent, wherever you see a lighted Christmas tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.

HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (verse 1) UMH 206

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 NT p. 166
SERMON "God is Faithful"
BELL CHOIR "Blessed Virgin, Full of Grace" Phyllis T. Hentz

OFFERING
OFFERTORY "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" Lynn Arthur Koch
***DOXOLOGY** "What Gift Can We Bring" (vs. 1 & 4) UMH 87
***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of your kingdom, may these offerings be a sign of our readiness and desire to live attentively. Use them to bring justice, righteousness, and joy to our world. Surprise us with your presence and help us to look up, to pay attention, and to embrace the hope you bring. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER
LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895
***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CLOSING HYMN** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (verses 1&2) UMH 213
***BENEDICTION**
For all that has been…***Thanks!***
For all that will be…***Yes!***
***SENDING FORTH**
***POSTLUDE** "'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" Lynn Arthur Koch

GREETER | Liz Steen **LITURGIST |** Lorna Cuevas **COFFEE HOUR|** Carolyn Krejmas

PRAYER LIST: Family of George Summers, Sandy S., Barbara Cooper, Robert McDonald, Linda Kent, Rhonda Leister, Angelo, Will Luis & Jessica Abbott and family, Jeff and Diane Fornoff, Barbara Urban and her sister Pat, Jean Hoff, Linda Ryder, Rhonda Leister, Marilyn Schultz, Whit Trumbull, Bob Korn, Sue Reimlinger, Adam Slate, Joel, Trudy Gelfand, Betsy Gramer, Steve Swanson, Jerry Graham, Teresa Graham, Caite Panzer, Dr. Antonella, Cassie, Gwen Gilmore, Pam Sackett, Bradley Seltzer, Beth Klopfleisch, Jackie & Dani Pentecharsky, Terry Coupell, Gary Psarudakis, Pat Mystkowski, Hernandez Family, Dianne Siconolfi, Carolyn Grossmann, Joanne Green, Jacob Hernandez, Rebecca Suarez, Barbara Brown, Nazareth, Joe Schneider, Jim Schneider, Tedesco Family, John Rodriguez, Geoff Sackett, Armando Avila, Agnes Halsey, James Bennet, Lori Sheppard, Nancy McKeen, Steve Urban, Brian Sheppard, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Henry Salidino, Jim Lordi



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