



December 7, 2024
 The Second Sunday of Advent
 The Reverend Jenny Anderson

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

**All who are able, standing*

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

After the gathering, a bell will ring to signal the beginning of worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Sonata no. 1 in G minor

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Jacques Berthier

* HYMN

203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Ellacombe

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
 great David's greater Son!
 Hail in the time appointed,
 his reign on earth begun!
 He comes to break oppression,
 to set the captive free;
 to take away transgression,
 and rule in equity.**

**He comes with succor speedy
 to those who suffer wrong;
 to help the poor and needy,
 and bid the weak be strong;
 to give them songs for sighing,
 their darkness turn to light,
 whose souls, condemned and dying,
 are precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down like showers
 upon the fruitful earth;
 love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
 spring in his path to birth.**

Before him on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.

* GREETING

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

* OPENING PRAYER

Laboring God,
with axe and winnowing fork
you clear a holy space
where hurt and destruction have no place,
and a little child holds sway.
Clear our lives of hatred and despair,
sow seeds of joy and peace,
that shoots of hope may spring forth
and we may live in harmony
with one another. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Compass Point: Downtown Cooperative Church Ministry, Joan Piercy and Greg Capers

This morning, we will light two candles of our Advent wreath
in this season of hopeful waiting.
God of hope, you raised up John the Baptizer as a herald who calls us to conversion.
As we joyfully await the glorious coming of Christ,
we pray to you for the needs of the church and the world.

God, today we give prayers of thanksgiving for the places your love, peace, justice,
and joy meet us this holy season.

The second candle is lit.

Together we pray:

Hear our humble prayer
that we may serve you in holiness and faith
and give voice to your presence among us
until the day of the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read
and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-10

Old Testament p. 784

ANTHEM AND CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

response 1

***Sung Response: I will give you as a light to the nations,
my salvation to the ends of the earth***

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!
Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**
May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**
In his days may righteousness flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**
Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.

Sung Response

VOCAL SOLO

I Wonder as I Wander

John Jacob Niles

* GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

New Testament p. 3

SERMON

Heaven Has Come Near

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UMH p. 883

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world**We believe in God:**

who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.**We are called to be the church:**

to celebrate God's presence,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,

**To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.**

We are not alone.**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

INVITATION, CONFESSION AND PARDON

UMH p. 12

* THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING

People, Look East

arr. Malcolm Archer

Text: See hymn 202

* DOXOLOGY

95 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH p. 13

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
 always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
 Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
 When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
 You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
 and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day
 when justice shall roll down like waters
 and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
 when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war anymore.

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

**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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
 whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.
 You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts
 and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.
 You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree.
 You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away.
 Your own Son came among us as a servant
 to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.
 He humbled himself in obedience to your will
 and freely accepted death on a cross.
 By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
 you gave birth to your Church,
 delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
 and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us
 he took the 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.”

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.”

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.
Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered us here,
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
 that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
 redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
 one with each other,
 and one in ministry to all the world,
 until Christ comes in final victory,
 and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
 all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father
 now and for ever.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*All are invited to receive the bread and cup.
 Come forward at the direction of our ushers.
 You will receive communion by intinction. Receive the bread and dip it in the juice.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

* HYMN

729 O Day of Peace

Jerusalem

O day of peace that dimly shines
 through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
 guide us to justice, truth, and love,
 delivered from our selfish schemes.
 May swords of hate fall from our hands,
 our hearts from envy find release,
 till by God's grace our warring world
 shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
 nor shall the fierce devour the small;
 as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
 a little child shall lead them all.
 Then enemies shall learn to love,
 all creatures find their true accord;
 the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
 for all the hearth shall know the Lord.

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

* POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Andrew Carter

HAPPY ADVENT, ST. JOHN!

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT: GOD WITH US STUDY 4-5:30PM

DECEMBER 8- UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

POTLUCK DINNER 6PM

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH WELCOME!

DECEMBER 10- BRING A FAVORITE NATIVITY TO SUPPER

TABLES READY AT 5:30PM, SUPPER AT 6:15PM

DECEMBER 17- BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS 6:45PM

SUPPER AT 6PM

DECEMBER 20- DECEMBER FOOD DISTRIBUTION 8:30AM

DECEMBER 21- YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY 4:30-6:30PM

DECEMBER 23- DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE 10AM

CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL 12-4PM

DECEMBER 24- CONCERTS WITH A CAUSE AND

LESSONS AND CAROLS 10:30PM

The Advent wreath is given by Angela and Rodney Powell in loving memory of his mother Earline Powell.

The garland is given by Becky Rogers in loving memory of Tom Rogers and by Mary Ottinger in gratitude for her church family.

Ministry of Worship

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Preacher | Reverend Jenny Anderson |
| Liturgist | Stephanie Quattlebaum |
| Lay Reader | Nichole Kuehl |
| Greeters | Joan Piercy, Becky Rogers, Ulrike Arntz |
| Ushers | Charles Piercy, Nick Anderson |
| Acolyte | Micah Quattlebaum |
| Crucifer | Annabelle Quattlebaum |
| Organist and Director of Music | Jamie Council Garvey |
| Guest Organist | Dan Hardin |
| Choirs | The St. John Choir and St. John Junior Choir |
| Junior Choir Director | Sawyer Branham |
| Cantor | Jamal Bogan |
| Violinist | Anastasia Petrunina |
| Vocal Soloist | Courtney Kalbacker |
| Communion Bread | Paula Matson |
| Offering Counter | Mark Barron |
| Worship Technician | Donald Tilton |

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| Weekly Stewardship | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 2025 Budget | \$573,081 |
| Weekly Giving | \$7,971 |
| YTD Giving | \$413,108 |
| YTD Other Income | \$88,686 |
| YTD Expenses | \$525,376 |
| Attendance 11/30 | Sanctuary: 113 Online: 20 |

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St. John United Methodist Church

St. John is a welcoming and affirming congregation.

736 Greene Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901

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