

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Our Journey Through the Darkness



WATCHMAN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT, WHAT ITS SIGNS OF PROMISE ARE.  
TRAVELER, WHAT A WONDROUS SIGHT: SEE THAT GLORY-BEAMING STAR.  
WATCHMAN, DOES ITS BEAUTEIOUS RAY NEWS OF JOY OR HOPE FORETELL?  
TRAVELER, YES; IT BRINGS THE DAY, PROMISED DAY OF ISRAEL.

WATCHMAN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT, HIGHER YET THAT STAR ASCENDS.  
TRAVELER, BLESSEDNESS AND LIGHT, PEACE AND TRUTH ITS COURSE PORTENDS.  
WATCHMAN, WILL ITS BEAMS ALONE GILD THE SPOT THAT GAVE THEM BIRTH?  
TRAVELER, AGES ARE ITS OWN; SEE, IT BURSTS O'ER ALL THE EARTH.

WATCHMAN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT, FOR THE MORNING SEEMS TO DAWN.  
TRAVELER, SHADOWS TAKE THEIR FLIGHT; DOUBT AND TERROR ARE WITHDRAWN.  
WATCHMAN, YOU MAY GO YOUR WAY; HASTEN TO YOUR QUIET HOME.  
TRAVELER, WE REJOICE TODAY, FOR EMMANUEL HAS COME!

10:20 a.m. Worship Service

December 10, 2023



**Rev. Gary Heaton**

3239 Valley Pike, Winchester, VA 22602, 540-667-7298

[kernstownumc.org](http://kernstownumc.org)

◆ *\* All who are able, please stand; bold print - all respond* ◆

Prelude	David Landrum
Ring of the Bell	Sam Henshaw
Greeting /Announcements	Cathy Richard
Advent Antiphonal Introit	Steve Wells
*Hymn <i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	<b>UMH 220</b>
Lighting of Altar Candles	Sam Henshaw
*Advent Candles Lighting	Wolf & Carol Neudorfer

Reader: "The Earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea and the stars shine in the night sky. As we journey through the darkness, the star shall signal to the peoples; look to the dawn, the promise of Israel.

**All: We are the followers of the Eastern star. We are the ones who follow the star and stand in the watchtower to signal to the world, that peace is the will of the One Who created us.**

Reader: In those days, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” And “bear fruit worthy of repentance.”

**All: We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.**

## Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

## Stacey Park

## Response to the Word

### *How Many Kings?*

Choir

\*Offering and Children's Church (Tune of "Infant Holy" UMH #229)

***Glory be to God the Father; glory be to Christ the Son; glory to the Holy Spirit; glory to the Three-in-One. Here we offer to You gladly, all the gifts that You impart, As we glory in Your presence, giving from a grateful heart.*** Used w/permission; words copyright ©2003 Brenda J. He

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Heaton

## Congregational Prayer

**O God, during this season of Advent, we are like watchmen, who with deep anticipation, look for signs of Your holy presence in our world. Much of our world is a wilderness of brokenness and despair. We pray for the nations of the world and our local communities that hunger for a way to live together in peace. We pray for our brothers and sisters everywhere, that we could be more forgiving, more understanding, and more loving of one another. We thank You for Your promise of peace, and we know, that because of Christ, peace is possible! Come Lord Jesus, and flood our hearts with the light of Your peace today, so that we might go forth and spread Your healing and forgiving love to the whole world. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218

# Sermon

## *“Prepare the Way”*

Rev. Wells

Mark1:1-8; Matthew 3:1-12

## Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

Rev. Heaton

## Invitation to Holy Communion

*(Musical setting #3171 W&S insert)*

## The Lord's Supper

**\*Hymn**      *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*      **TFWS 2089**

**\*The Benediction**      Rev. Heaton

**\*Choral Benediction** (*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing vs.3*)      **UMH 240**

***Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of  
Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with  
healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that  
man no more may die, Born to raise us from the Earth, born  
to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory  
to the newborn King!"***

Postlude

David Landrum

CCLI # 11408803

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*The hymn on the bulletin cover is based on Isaiah 21:11-12 written by Sir John Bowring (1792-1872), a staunch Unitarian, provides a poetic interpretation of this text that elaborates on the dialogue between the traveler and the watchman. A distinguished scholar, Bowring was ranked by some as one of the great minds of his day.*

### *Announcements*

**Who's Who in The Pew - Member Attendance & Visitor Info** - Please fill out the card located in the pews and place it in the offering basket. Include your name and any prayer requests or concerns for our church leaders. If you are a visitor, please include your contact info and any requests.

This morning we **welcome** to the pulpit the Rev. Steve Wells to bring the second sermon in our Advent series: "Starlight; for Our Journey Through the Darkness."

**Stargazing** - On Saturday, Dec. 16, a bus will be available at 6:00 PM for those who need a ride to the home of Rev. Heaton for stargazing. The bus will return before 9:00.

**Advent & Christmas at Kernstown United Methodist Church - Our Journey Through the Darkness.** Join us as we look for **HOPE & FAITH & LOVE** in the timeless story of the birth of **JESUS**. We will be looking to the heavens by searching the stars in the night sky to remind us that the light that shines in the darkness has come to us through our **SAVIOR**. Pick up a brochure in the pew.



*Be faithful in prayer - Romans 12:12 NIV*

**Wednesday Morning Prayer & Care Group** - At 11:00 AM, every Wednesday morning, the congregation is invited to meet with the pastor for a time of praying for the concerns of the church. Join us during this journey together each week. *Prayers:* Margo Young; Tom Chicca; Pawchak family; my parents; the homeless; domestic tranquility; Freddie & Marie Cheshire; Jack Woods; Russ & Helen; Donna Green & family; Scott Maphis; Bruce & Hilda; Michael Geiss; Chris Neff; Mary Ann McMillian; Carlin; Peg Baker; Lisa Beaver; Bri's family; Caleb; Jaeda; Gaza; Jerusalem; Annie & Jane; thanks for sunshine, friends, family & autumn leaves; Bob & Linda Nesmith; Ian & Emily Epstein; June & Nate Windle; Dusti; Doug; Trudy; Linda; Anneke & Skyler Gibson; Suzanne Conklin; Dottie Holstine; Natasha Ramey; Israel; Shriver family; CJ; Dean Shewbridge; Bob King; hostages; Beth Chapman; Becky Cather; Connie Heironimus; Mark Wells; Lana Austin; Jimmy Horton; Madagan family; Daniel Whitacre; Mary Kathryn Clark; Shirley Dick; Mary Shetler; Jane Thomas; Marilyn Stelzl; Dawna Wilson; Wilsons; Nelda & Charles Harless; Rev. Clay Knick & Lisa; Nellie Snoots; Roy & Mary Walker; Tina & Shane Weagley; Sharon & George Teets; Simon & Vicky Newlin; Adele Birnbaum; Amy, Frank & boys; our world; our church and our pastor; Betty Murphy; Pamela Martin; Chet Boden & family; new jobs & opportunities; Fahnstock family; Cindy Brennan; Virginia Frances Ebbs Murray family; Barbara Bledsoe

*Scriptures:* Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalms 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

*Calendar*

Sun., Dec. 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:00 New Member Orientation

9:00 Bible Study John

10:20 Worship

*Reader:* Stacey Park; *Greeters:*

Charlie Donohoe & Mary Walker

*Counters:* Gary Lantz & Carolyn Carney

Monday, December 11

7:00 Church Council

Tuesday, December 12

12-4 Bridge (f. hall)

12 UWF offsite luncheon

Wednesday, December 13

9-11:30 BSF (2-3 rooms upstairs)

11:00 Prayer & Care (f.hall)

12:00 Advent Service/Lunch

5:30 TOPS

7:00 Choir (f.hall)

Thursday, December 14

10-2 TOPS

Friday, December 15

9<sup>30</sup>-2<sup>30</sup> Bridge (f. hall)

Saturday December 16

10:00 Jubilee Kitchen

10:00 Choir

6:00 Bus leaves parking lot

7:00 Stargazing

Sun., Dec. 17, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
and New Member Sunday

10:20 (Cantata) Worship

*Reader:* Rich Lichvar; *Greeters:* Vicki

Maphis & Judy Chapman; *Counters:*

Lorraine Shelton & Cathy Richard

**Save the Date:** Sat., Dec. 23,  
Rev. Bill Erbach invites KUMC to  
his home & mill to view 550+  
nativity scenes from around the  
world. Between 1:00 & 5:00 PM,  
more details to follow.



Please know that ALL children are **ALWAYS welcome** to attend our entire church service in the sanctuary. We offer an optional short **Children's Church** program during Sunday worship.