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**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
JOINT WORSHIP**

December 10, 2023 • 10:00 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Please be sure to silence your cell phones. Thank you!)

PRELUDE 前奏 – Shane Cantanho, piano

WELCOME 歓迎: — Rev. John Oda

***CALL TO WORSHIP** 招きの言葉 (L.-Liturgist; P.-People)
– Eric Fujii

L: We, the people of Wesley, come with joy to this
celebration of God's love!

P: Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your love.

L: We come with hope to this witness to God's
power!

**P: Challenge and encourage our spirits to create
communities so that your love can be felt, Lord.**

L: We come with a willingness to proclaim God's presence to all.

P: We thank God for this invitation to worship, witness and serve. AMEN.

***OPENING PRAYER** 祈祷 – Eric Fujii

Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you for your mighty acts of creation. As we gather as a community of believers, we hear your message of power and love through the witness of Jesus Christ. He gave his disciples words of encouragement about living in your love, and through that love being witnesses to the whole world of your peace and hope. Be with us this day, Lord. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word. AMEN.

***SONG: “Blessed Be Your Name”** – Wesley Praise Band

*Words and music by Matt and Beth Redman © 2002 Thankyou Music.
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Blessed be your name
in the land that is plentiful,
where your streams of abundance flow,
blessed be your name.
Blessed be your name
when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness,
blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out I'll
turn back to praise.

When the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say,

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your glorious name.

Blessed be your name
when the sun's shining down on me,
when the world's all as it should be,
blessed be your name.

Blessed be your name
on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering,
blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out I'll
turn back to praise.

When the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say,

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

blessed be your glorious name.

You give and take away,
you give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be your name.
You give and take away,
you give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be your glorious name.

***SONG: “People Look East” UMH #202**

– Wesley Praise Band

*Words by Eleanor Farjeon, Music: Traditional French Carol
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People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING:

— Amanda Halbakken and family

A reading from Isaiah 11:9-10 “They will not hurt or
destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full
of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious”.

We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to the future, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

Matthew 3:1,2, 8 “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”.

We light these candles, the candle of hope for the future and the candle of peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God’s future. 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.

CHORAL ANTHEM 聖歌隊讚美:

“Lullaby of the Dove” — Wesley Chancel Choir,
conducted by Denise Rawlinson

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SCRIPTURE聖書: – Hikaru Bakoshi

1 John 4: 7-12, 17-19 (*The Message*)

⁷⁻¹⁰My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

¹¹⁻¹²My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love! We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is

identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love. ¹⁹We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

JAPANESE SCRIPTURE聖書:

Hikaru Bakoshi: 馬越ひかる

ヨハネの手紙一 4章7節-12節, 17節-19節

⁷愛する者たち、互いに愛し合いましょう。愛は神から出るもので、愛する者は皆、神から生まれ、神を知っているからです。⁸愛することのない者は神を知りません。神は愛だからです。⁹神は、独り子を世にお遣わしになりました。その方によって、わたしたちが生きるようになるためです。ここに、神の愛がわたしたちの内に示されました。¹⁰わたしたちが神を愛したのではなく、神がわたしたちを愛して、わたしたちの罪を償ういけにえとして、御子をお遣わしになりました。ここに愛があります。¹¹愛する者たち、神がこのようにわたしたちを愛されたのですから、わたしたちも互いに愛し合うべきです。¹²いまだかつて神を見た者はいません。わたしたちが互いに愛し合うならば、神はわたしたちの内にとどまってくださり、神の愛がわたしたちの内ですべて全うされているのです。¹⁷こうして、愛がわたしたちの内に全うされているので、裁きの日に確信を持つことができます。この世でわたした

ちも、イエスのようなからです。¹⁸愛には恐れがない。完全な愛は恐れを締め出します。なぜなら、恐れは罰を伴い、恐れる者には愛が全うされていないからです。¹⁹わたしたちが愛するのは、神がまずわたしたちを愛してくださったからです。

MESSAGE 説教: “Together: The Beauty of Community-Week 2”

— Rev. John Oda

SONG: “Draw the Circle Wide” UMH #204

— Wesley Praise Band

Words by Gordon Light and Music by Mark A. Miller

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Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side

draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side

draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

In your sadness and in your grief,

from all the pain, it seems there's no relief.

We will hold you until the storm subsides.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side

draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side

draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERING 献金 :

— Eric Fujii

Today's Altar Flowers are given for all who are lonely sometimes as a reminder that you are loved.

OFFERTORY MUSIC— Shane Cantanho
"You'll Never Walk Alone"

***DOXOLOGY 頌栄** — Shane Cantanho

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" words by Thomas Ken | music by Luis Bourgeois | words and music Public Domain

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

In Japanese:

A me tsu chi ko zo ri te
Ka shi ko mi ta ta e yo
Mi me gu mi a fu ru ru
Chi chi mi ko mi ta ma o. Amen

***OFFERTORY PRAYER 祈祷** — Eric Fujii

Loving God, we place these offerings upon your altar with the knowledge that they will support many ministries that proclaim your Good News and lead people to you. By offering you these generous gifts, we prepare ourselves to be led along your path of grace and love. We pray with your guiding presence. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER 牧会祈祷: — Rev. John Oda

***HYMN: 奉献曲: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

UMH #206

— Wesley Praise Band

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I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall
know the joy of Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

***BENEDICTION 祝禱:** – Rev. John Oda

***RESPONSE 応答 – “Go Now In Peace”** – Shane Cantanho
Words and Music: Don Besig OneLicense 735877-A.

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

POSTLUDE MUSIC 後奏: — Shane Cantanho

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*Please stand if you are able.