

First Coming

A Christmas Poem by Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace
He came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
He came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Boulevard United Methodist Church



By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- Luke 1:78-79

December 16, 2018

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Third Sunday in Advent
4:00 pm at 1837 W Broad St.

Greeting Rev. Drew Willson

Opening Words

O Morning star of Righteousness, your light shines brightly in the night.
Dispel our shadows and bring us light: **Illumine our darkness!**

Hymn *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

Time with Children Rev. Rachel G. May

Hymn *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Prayer

O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer - our spirits by thy justice here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Scripture Luke 2:1-5

Music

People get ready
There's a train a-coming
You don't need no baggage
You just get on board
All you need is faith
to hear the diesels humming
Don't need no ticket
You just thank the Lord

Scripture John 1:1-5

Sermon Rev. Meredith McNabb

Affirmation of Faith

Offering

The Lord's Supper

Hymn *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* 196

Dismissal with Blessing

NICENE CREED IN MANY VOICES

- (1) We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
(2) maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
(3) We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
(4) eternally begotten of the Father,
(5) God from God,
(6) Light from Light,
(7) true God from true God,
(8) of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
(all) For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
(9) For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
(10) He suffered death and was buried.
(11) On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures.
(12) He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
(13) He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
(14) We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets
(15) We believe in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.
(16) We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
(17) We look for the resurrection of the dead,
(18) and the life of the world to come.
(19) Amen!

NURTURE

caring for one another and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Nancy Tate and Leslie. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH for infants - 5 year olds begins after the children's moment (approximately 4:15). They rejoin us for Communion. Ms. LaRonda is an experienced childcare provider currently employed by Grace Covenant Child Development Center.

O ORIENS is the fifth of the seven O Antiphons, which are traditional names for the Messiah, whom Christians believe has come (and continues to come and will come again) in the person of Jesus.



This Sunday's image is translated "morning star" or "dayspring" or "light from the east". The biblical basis for addressing God this way includes Malachi 3:20, 2 Peter 1:19 and Isaiah 9:1: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..."

We have used the O Antiphons as a path through the season of Advent. Thank you for your willingness to engage something ancient while we wait for the One who makes all things new.

<i>O Sapientia</i>	Wisdom	November 11
<i>O Adonai</i>	Lord	November 18
<i>O Rex Gentium</i>	Ruler of nations	November 25
<i>O Radix Jesse</i>	Root of Jesse	December 2
<i>O Clavis David</i>	Key of David	December 9
O Oriens	Dayspring	December 16
<i>O Emmanuel</i>	God with us	December 23

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

GLORY, HALLELUJAH! That is in response to your continued commitment to congregational generosity. Our collection for United Methodist Family Services totals over \$1700. This is up several hundred dollars from last year, and so sweet to behold. We will deliver the check this coming week.

WITNESS

telling our stories, offering expressions of faith, being Christ-like

{Together}

FINANCIAL GIVING BEARS WITNESS to a caring and sharing God, as do our prayers, presence, and acts of service.

	Ministry Costs	Your Contributions
November 2018	\$11,656	\$16,453