



*Welcome! Please see the pew card "Welcome to Worship" for more information on our services.*

#### CENTERING WORDS

"Whether or not it is recognized by the corporate-controlled media, the Great Turning is a reality. Although we cannot know yet if it will take hold in time for humans and other complex life forms to survive, we can know that it is under way. And it is gaining momentum, through the actions of countless individuals and groups around the world. To see this as the larger context of our lives clears our vision and summons our courage." ~ Joanna Macy

PRELUDE: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (Psalmody Evangelica) Timothy Barnes, organ

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is God's due time, **not our immediate now.**

God's perfect timing, **not our impatience.**

God's timetable, **not our schedule.**

God's day of grace, **not our days of plans and activities.**

God's celebrations, **not our human-made festivities.**

God's delivery date, **not our predictions.**

God's due time, **not our demanded.** [continued on following page...]

\* Please rise, in body or in spirit.

**Bold type** indicates congregational response.

Advent reminds us that all time is God's time **In due time, Love is born in our midst.**

Until then, we wait, we anticipate. Until then, we hope, we worship.

\*OPENING HYMN: "Come and Find the Quiet Center" ..... FS 2128

\*OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

*(Please check in on Facebook and/or on Twitter @ChicagoBUMC, wifi password is 7733482679, and pass the friendship pads to register your attendance and any updated contact information.)*

Welcome to worship, God's beloved! **YES, I Am Welcome! Bienvenidas y bienvenidos!**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: "Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ..... # 211 vs. 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS



\*SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 24:36-44

"No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah's time. In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. Therefore be vigilant! For you don't know the day your Savior is coming. Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect."

Here ends the reading of the Gospel. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" (traditional Gospel tune)

\*SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 3:1-12

At this time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming, "Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!" It was John that the prophet Isaiah described when he said, "A herald's voice cries in the desert: 'Prepare the way of our God, make straight the paths of God!'" John was clothed in a garment of camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist. Grasshoppers and wild honey were his food. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him. John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. When he saw that many of the Pharisees and Sadducees were coming to be baptized, John said to them, 'You pack of snakes! Who told you to flee from the coming wrath?

Give some evidence that you mean to reform! And don't pride yourselves on the claim, 'Sarah and Abraham are our parents.' I tell you, God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these very stones! Even now the ax is laid to the root of the tree. Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I will baptize you in water if you have a change of heart, but the One who will follow me is more powerful than I. I'm not fit even to untie the sandals of the Coming One! That One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire, whose winnowing-fan will clear the threshing floor. The grain will be gathered into the barn, but the chaff will be burned in unquenchable fire."

Here ends the reading of the Gospel. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MESSAGE: "Sacred Time"

Rev. Alka Lyall

#### THE INVITATION TO OFFERING

*[Broadway is committed to the financial support of its identity, vision, and ministry by tithing. Consider making an offering this morning of 10 percent of your income from this past week.]*

Beloveds, there are so many ways to spend our time, to spend our money, to spend our emotional and spiritual resources. But here, we choose to gather them together in order to invest in what matters most: justice, each other, spiritual transformation, and the renewal of the world. May it be so, as we bring our gifts together.

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Give Thanks" ..... FS 2036 (inclusive language below)

**Give thanks, with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks, because God gave us, Jesus Christ, the Son. (2x)**

**and now, let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done, for us." (2x) Give thanks!**

\*DOXOLOGY..... [tune # 95]

*[You are invited to sing in one of these languages or in the language of your heart.]*

[Español:] **A Dios el Padre Celestial Al hijo nuestro Redentor  
Y al eterno Consolador Unidos todos alabad. Amen.**

[English:] **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of Unexpected Encounters, you awaken us to quiet wisdom. You captivate us with your love of all life. You draw our attention to the movements of the Spirit in our midst. Though we get preoccupied with the trivial, may these offerings be a sign of our desire to seek you in all that we do. Amen.**

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*[The United Methodist Church practices “open communion” which means that any and all who respond to the invitation are welcome to share in the Sacrament. You are invited to exit from one end of your pew and return by the other end of the pew at the direction of the ushers. You may bring your food offering (see announcements) to the Chancel as you come to receive the elements of Communion. We use unfermented grape juice for the Sacrament.]*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*CLOSING HYMN: “People Look East” . . . . . # 202

\*BENEDICTION

These days cry out for our attention. The earth groans. People are laboring for justice.

**Divine truths bubble up from within — if we’ll listen.**

May we go from here with ears, and eyes, and hearts open to the Sacred, calling for us with gifts of wisdom and invitations to courage. In assurance the Spirit goes with us,

**let us go in peace.**

POSTLUDE: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Veni Emmanuel)

Timothy Barnes, organ

*[Please remain seated for the postlude, or if needed, leave quietly.]*

~~~~~

*Liturgist: Nick Campanile. Liturgy adapted from enfleshed.com and worshipdesignstudio.com. Scripture from The Inclusive Bible. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009.*

## CELEBRATING GOD’S LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE

**BROADWAY’S MISSION STATEMENT:** “God calls Broadway United Methodist Church to be a faith community embracing the diversity of our Chicago neighborhood and larger community. We welcome all persons – celebrating the human family’s God-given diversity of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental capacity. We also welcome persons of all social and economic classes and faith backgrounds. At Broadway, we are accepted into God’s nurturing family, which invites us into spiritual growth through worship, study, mission, and social action. We are grateful for the opportunities God gives us to experience and share the love of Christ.”

[www.BroadwayChurchChicago.com](http://www.BroadwayChurchChicago.com)

