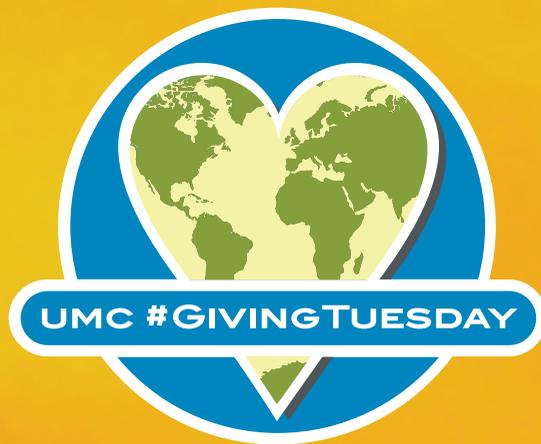


# WHEN METHODISTS ARE UNITED



**Tuesday, December 2**



# GIVING TUESDAY

On December 2, 2014 United Methodists once again are invited to extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season by participating in UMC #GivingTuesday.

**And every gift made online through The Advance at [www.umcmmission.org/give](http://www.umcmmission.org/give) on December 2 will be matched up to \$1 million.\***

Last year on UMC #GivingTuesday, United Methodists collectively raised a record \$6.5 million online through The Advance. Eleven thousand individuals and churches in 34 countries gave more than 16,300 gifts to mission and ministries they believe in. It was a wonderful sign of commitment and extravagant generosity, maximizing the impact of thousands of United Methodists coming together on one day to transform the world.

These resources are designed to help you as you plan worship for November 30, 2014, the first Sunday of Advent. The resources included are:

- Sermon preparation and reflection using the lectionary scriptures for the First Sunday of Advent, 2014
- Facts about the numbers of missionaries and Advance projects
- Articles of interest: Use these for information and story resources for your sermon, or for creative arts in worship
- Children's moment: United in partnership with God

- Worship liturgies: Call to worship and a benediction
- Hymn suggestions
- Media suggestions including a video created especially for the First Sunday of Advent, 2014
- Advent wreath-lighting liturgies for the season of Advent and Christmas Eve/Day: written by mission-aries serving from everywhere to everywhere: [www.umcmmission.org/advent2014](http://www.umcmmission.org/advent2014). Go to [www.globalpraise.org](http://www.globalpraise.org) for the full score of the music.

While people can give to The Advance any time of year, having one day when Methodists are united in supporting The Advance together shifts energy away from secular consumerism and back into a spirit of cheerful Christian giving. It shows the world the transformational power that can happen in one day, when Methodists are united. We hope that these resources will help you as you plan worship leading up to UMC #GivingTuesday and into the season of Advent.

Global Ministries offers additional ideas to promote and share the UMC #GivingTuesday campaign at [www.umcmmission.org/givingtuesday](http://www.umcmmission.org/givingtuesday).

*\* Global Ministries will allocate matching funds dollar for dollar up to the first \$1 million in gifts to Advance projects received online on --December 2, 2014, between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. EST. A maximum of \$2,500 per individual gift to a project will be dispersed as matching funds. A project may receive a maximum of \$25,000 in matching funds.*

# SERMON & WORSHIP RESOURCES

“God is faithful, and you were called by [God] to partnership with [God’s] Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

*(1 Corinthians 1:9, CEB)*

## Sermon Preparation and Reflection

During the season of Advent we are pulled between the focus of the second coming of Christ when we will all be reconciled to God as part of God’s kingdom and the trumpet blares of the commercial world saying, “Stuff! You need more stuff!” As worship leaders and worship designers we are called to share God’s word of hope and to engage in the work of being partners in God’s reconciling love, hope and salvation. As United Methodists, we want to experience the transformation that happens when we are united in serving others.

This year has brought to the world the destructive forces of nature, wars, an Ebola virus crisis, civil crises, earthquakes, typhoons and so much more. As The United Methodist Church, we have been partners with God and God’s people, united through the ministries of local churches, districts, annual conferences, UMCOR, Global Ministries missionaries and Advance projects. As we approach Advent filled with expectant hope, we feel the pain in the world and want to cry out, “Come to save us!”

So how do we approach the season of Advent in 2014 as worship leaders? As we read the scriptures for November 30, the first Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37), we hear the echoes of these exact same cries from God’s people so long ago. The psalmist cries out, “Restore us, Lord God of heavenly forces! Make your face shine so that we can be saved!” (Psalm 80:19) In 1 Corinthians we read the affirmation that God’s people there have followed Christ’s teaching and worked together to be Christ’s people in their community. They are waiting for the “not yet, but soon to come.” Mark gives us the image of the day of Christ’s second coming as a time when in the midst of the darkness God’s angels will come and gather God’s people up “from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven” (Mark 13:27).

When God’s people are crying out in fear and pain—we bring the hope of Jesus Christ. When God’s people throughout the world are crying out for restoration, for physical and spiritual salvation—we reach out together as united people of God and offer hope in the form of Christ’s love and clean water, medical clinics, flood buckets, treated nets, a comforting touch, a listening ear ... we reach out to fill the needs of the world because united together as partners with God, we offer Christ, real and present, in the lives of God’s people.

We don’t know the exact day or time of Christ’s return, but we do know that we are called to be “prepared,” to live every day looking for the opportunity to offer the hope of Christ. Each of us is called to serve our neighbors, to be with the lost and the broken. Each of us is called to give as we unite with other United Methodists to become living partners with God during this season. May those of us who are called to lead in worship this Advent season bring hope through the word preached, prayed and lived.

## Questions to Consider

- How are we called to be united together as partners with God in restoration of God’s people and all creation?
- How does the urgency of Christ’s call to “Watch out! Stay alert!” impact us as we try to balance the pull between waiting for Christ’s second coming during Advent and the secularization of the holiday season? How does this impact the choices we make with our schedules, way of living and giving this season?
- How do you share the call to second-mile giving through The Advance with your congregation in ways that make the work of God’s kingdom real and that call us to be engaged? How can you engage your congregation in making partners in mission with other United Methodists?
- In the video “Church and Community Workers,” a series of questions is asked. In light of the call of today’s scripture lessons to be partners, reconcile and “stay alert,” how would your congregation and members answer those questions? How can you challenge them to spend Advent in prayerful consideration of their answer to God?

- What are the words of hope that you need to offer to your congregation in their specific context this season? How can they share that hope with their neighbors and the world?

## Children's moment: United in partnership with God

**Materials:** "Giving Partners Card": Create the card by asking a few children, youth and adults to put their hands together and hold each other's hands. Take a close-up picture focusing on the hands. Another option is to search for "hands" on a search engine such as Google images or to ask a member of your church to draw a small picture of hands. Print enough copies on card stock so that each child who attends worship will be able to have one. Consider adding the picture as an image to your bulletin so everyone will see the picture as you share it with the children.

**Preparation:** Prepare a Giving Partners Card for each child (*instructions above*). Decide on a simple hand-clapping pattern to teach the children, which includes clapping their hands and reaching out to clap another person's hand, such as the beginning of patty-cake (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yULp0Vnzblc>).

*Begin by playing patty-cake by yourself. Start by saying: "Good morning! I love to play clapping hand games. This one goes like this: Clap, reach out, clap, reach out. Can you do this with me?" Keep doing the pattern as you say the next few sentences. "In this season of Advent, we spend a lot of time preparing for Christ's birth by deciding what present we want to give to people who are special in our lives." You stop the hand game. The children will stop after you stop.*

"This week we have the chance to join with many others to support people all around the world who need us to be in ministry with them. And it will take all of us because we can do so much more together with others. We need partners. Let's do our hand game with a partner. Can you find a partner?" *You may have to help the children find a partner. Begin the hand game again.* "This game is certainly a whole lot more fun with a partner. And can you hear how the sound of our clapping has gotten so much stronger by working together?"

That's what happens when we show our love for God by working together as partners with others. I'm wondering ... can you make even larger groups of three, four or more to play the hand game? This is great! God wants us to work united together with those who are hungry, and who need homes, clean water, food and medical treatment. Together we can do so much more for others." *Stop playing the hand game. You may have to ask the children to stop as well. "Our hand game can help us to remember to praise God and to pray," (clap, then hold your hands together in a prayer position) "that we need others to be with us," (clap or hold another person's hand) "and that we reach out to help others." (Reach your hands out to others.)*

"This Tuesday is Giving Tuesday, when we have a chance to offer a special gift to God to help people in need. Everyone can be a part of Giving Tuesday. Every quarter or dollar that you give from your allowance or piggy bank to Giving Tuesday will help boys and girls have what they need. They need us to help them know that God's love is always there for them. God is always faithful. Uniting together and working as partners with your family and with others in our church will make a difference in people's lives around the world."

*Give a card to each child and say: "On this card there is a picture of people holding hands. We can be partners with children, youth and grown-ups around the world through our prayers and through our giving to make sure that people who need help know that help is there because we love God. Put this card near your bed and put your hand on it every so often to remind yourself that we are united as partners together with God. Will you hold your card as we pray?"*

"Dear God, Help me to always have hands that are clapping to pray and praise you, holding hands with others and reaching out to help others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

### Hymn Suggestions

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," (from "The United Methodist Hymnal," #196). Sing this hymn through the lens of God's faithfulness and promises fulfilled. Together, with this child Jesus and those called to follow him, we will unite to bring "thy gracious kingdom."

Consider decorating the worship space as the congregation sings. Dance in your Advent banners, garlands or even the unlit Advent wreath candles.

“Soon and Very Soon,” (from “The United Methodist Hymnal,” #706). A reminder of God’s plan for reconciliation, when people will have what they need and all of creation will rejoice. While the basses love to sing the “Hallelujah” at the end of each of the first two lines of the music score, consider teaching the two “Hallelujah” phrases to all of the children in the church, singing it one octave higher than written. The children can move to the front as the introduction is played and sing together on all three stanzas.

“Kanisa Litajengua / O Who Will Build the Church Now” (from “For Everyone Born: Global Songs for an Emerging Church,” p. 46). This song calls us to be united in partnership in building God’s church. It is a song of commitment and love for God from the people of Kenya. It is a call and response song; teach it to the choirs in advance so you are able to sing it unaccompanied with the congregation. Consider adding a simple hand drum pattern for rhythmic emphasis. (The songbook is available at [www.shop.umc.org](http://www.shop.umc.org))

“For Everyone Born” (from “For Everyone Born: Global Songs for an Emerging Church,” p. 56). Each stanza calls us to specific ways we are to serve others in order to transform the world. The refrain reminds us to be a “we” as creators of justice and joy, not a solo “me.” United. Partners together. Churches with projection may want to consider creating a photo essay based on the text. Choreograph a simple hand and arm movement to the refrain for all of the congregation to do together.

“People, Look East” (from “The United Methodist Hymnal,” #202). While the images given are usually thought of in terms of “decorating” our own homes, look at them instead as partners with God in mission. The stanzas refer to housing, sustainable agriculture, abundant food and water ... all are a part of the coming kingdom of God. Consider adding a clarinet, oboe or other reed instrument and also a hand drum to enhance the dance-like rhythm of the tune. Consider asking the people to turn and face east as they sing.

## Worship Liturgies

### Call to Worship

We do not know the time:

**Stay alert.**

We do not know the time:

**Be watchful.**

No one knows the time

When God will send out the angels

To the four winds, to the ends of earth and heaven,

To gather the elect,

**Alert and watchful**

No one knows the time;

**But God, our God is faithful.**

**God is near at hand,**

**As near as the city gates,**

**As close as the door.**

We do not know God’s times and seasons.

**But we know the One we have believed.**

We answer God’s call to be partners,

To gather, to worship, to learn, to give,

**To go out to work,**

**united in partnership**

**with God’s son, our Lord,**

**Jesus, the Christ,**

Whom we serve

And for whom we wait ...

Alert,

**Watchful,**

**Expectant.**

(Written by Andrew Donaldson, Advance #3021281, serving with the World Council of Churches, Switzerland, in the mission of worship)

### Call to Worship

**One:** Savior, tear open the heavens and come down!

**All:** **Unite us through your love for your people.**

**One:** Savior, revive us, so we can call on your name!

**All:** **Unite us as we proclaim your name to the world.**

**One:** Savior, call us to partnership with you.

**All:** **Unite us as we gather from the ends of the earth to worship you.**

(Written by Debra Tyree, Global Praise)

## Benediction

- One:** Ever faithful God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the people,  
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
he is the Savior of every nation.  
Therefore, we call upon you in all confidence,  
saying:
- All: Lord, help us to remain partners with your son Jesus Christ everywhere you call us to serve you.**
- One:** Lord, sustain, inspire and enlighten your servants who bring the gospel to the entire world.
- All: May the blessing of the Lord be upon all who support the gospel of Jesus Christ to be preached everywhere.**
- One:** Lord, continually renew missionary zeal in ourselves and in the Church; raise up new missionaries who will follow you to the ends of the world, make us witnesses to your goodness; full of love, strength and faith for your glory and the salvation of the entire world.
- All: O God, help us to be united from everywhere to everywhere as we continue to honor your call to mission. Send us out to be partners in your mission through Jesus Christ who is the Light of the World. Amen!**

(Written by Jean Claude Masuka Maleka, Advance #3021390, serving in Côte d'Ivoire in the mission of evangelism and church planting)

## Media Suggestions

These videos tell the story of ministry “with.” Use these short videos to hear stories about how The United Methodist Church is making a difference in the lives of people everywhere, united together through partnerships with your faith community. Depending on your setting, consider showing a specific video that connects to your worship theme before worship or as a clip during worship.

### Video created for use in worship:

Giving Tuesday: United in partnership with God:  
<https://vimeo.com/106627577>

This video was created specifically for use in worship settings to tell the stories of persons engaged in

mission. Incorporating the lectionary scriptures, the missionaries share about their call, their sense of partnership with God and the church, and the transformation in their lives and the lives of those with whom they serve.

### Other videos to help in learning about being united in ministry “with”:

Church and community workers:

<https://vimeo.com/97244656>

A series of important questions are asked to several of our church and community workers. How would you answer these questions?

Generation Transformation: Transforming lives:

<https://vimeo.com/99660207>

Young adults share the ways their lives have been powerfully transformed as they serve as missionaries.

Accessing safe water: <https://vimeo.com/77613267>

UMCOR is facilitating safe water ministries around the world; saving lives, bringing hope.

Missionary Katherine Parker:

<https://vimeo.com/76964401>

Missionary Katherine Parker is making a difference in Nepal through ministry as a water, sanitation and hygiene advisor to local partner agencies.

After Typhoon Haiyan: Courage for the future:

<https://vimeo.com/103844207>

Christine V. Catiang, a teacher at the Calogcog Elementary School, thanks UMCOR and The United Methodist Church for their support after Typhoon Haiyan ravaged her town.

Working towards justice: <https://vimeo.com/71364776>

Brad Taylor, global justice volunteer, shares how faith and justice connect, and his hopes for meeting the needs of those neglected by society.

Aviation Ministry – Rukang Chikomb:

<https://vimeo.com/96846861>

The ability to bring medicines and food, to fly the very sick to the hospital and to transport pastors and church leaders to rural communities is life saving. Hear the call of God upon the life of missionary Rukang Chikomb.

In Mission Together – Plant new churches:

<https://vimeo.com/67651219>

What does it mean to be in mission together around the world?

Generation Transformation launch:  
<https://vimeo.com/76370661>  
Powerful ministry program for young adults to serve as missionaries for two years. Are there young

adults in your community who are being called to transformational living and need to be encouraged by you to apply this year?

## Articles of Interest

Here are articles that are filled with stories of God's work through United Methodists from everywhere to everywhere. Choose segments from these "stories" to weave into your sermon, to use as a witness time in worship or as a time of sharing how God is acting throughout the world. If you have a drama ministry, several of the stories could be adapted into a series of short monologues. Review the articles and choose several that will best fit your worship service focus, your drama team and the context of your congregation. Consider doing them as an "interview on the street" or perhaps have different mission characters appear throughout the service. Also consider linking an article to your church social media each day during the week prior to Giving Tuesday and continue into Advent. Discover the stories of many more projects at [www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories).

**Project profile — Acción Médica Cristiana:** Leader provides medical care (Nicaragua)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1121-Leader-Provides-Medical-Care](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1121-Leader-Provides-Medical-Care)

**Project profile – Street children ministry:** Protecting street children (Cambodia)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1122-Protecting-Street-Children](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1122-Protecting-Street-Children)

**Project profile – Jalingo Orphanage:** Education adding hope to children's lives (Nigeria)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1128-Education-Adding-Hope](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1128-Education-Adding-Hope)

**Project profile – Tengokuya Café:** Café reaches out to the poor (Japan)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1129-Cafe-Reaches-Out](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1129-Cafe-Reaches-Out)

**Project profile – DSPR:** Restoring dignity, peace, hope (Middle East)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1130-Restoring-Dignity](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1130-Restoring-Dignity)

**Project profile—Methodist e-Academy:** E-Academy equipping future pastors (Europe)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/December/1201-E-Academy](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/December/1201-E-Academy)

**Project profile – UMCOR Global Health Initiative:** Preventing deaths (Global)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/December/1201-Preventing-Deaths](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/December/1201-Preventing-Deaths)

**Project profile – UMCOR anti-human trafficking:** Freeing slaves to rebuild lives (Armenia)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/December/1203-Freeing-Slaves-to-Rebuild-Lives](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/December/1203-Freeing-Slaves-to-Rebuild-Lives)

**The Advance project profile: Shade and Fresh Water – Brazil:** Maria remembers – and gives back (Brazil)  
[www.interpretermagazine.org/interior.asp?ptid=43&mid=14803](http://www.interpretermagazine.org/interior.asp?ptid=43&mid=14803)

**Project profile – Cookson Hills Center:** Serving ‘the last, the least and the lost’ (USA, Oklahoma)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1125-Serving-the-last](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1125-Serving-the-last)

**Project profile – Joy-Southfield Community Health:** Chipping away at chronic disease (USA, Michigan)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1126-Chipping-Away-at-Chronic-Disease](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1126-Chipping-Away-at-Chronic-Disease)

**Project profile – RISSE:** Learning language, literacy, life skills (USA, New York)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1127-Learning-language](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1127-Learning-language)

**Project profile – Warren Village:** Life gets better for single parents, kids (USA, Colorado)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1127-Life-Gets-Better](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/November/1127-Life-Gets-Better)

**Project profile – Upper Sand Mountain Parish:** Family services help bridge gap (USA, Alabama)  
[www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/December/1202-Family-Services-Help-Bridge-Gap](http://www.umcmmission.org/Learn-About-Us/News-and-Stories/2013/December/1202-Family-Services-Help-Bridge-Gap)

## Facts

**Number of Global Ministries’ missionaries serving around the world:**  
More than 300

**Average number of dollars needed to fully support one missionary per year:**  
\$55,000

**Number of countries where missionaries serve:**  
59

**Website where you can read the bios of Global Ministries’ missionaries:**  
[www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service](http://www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service)

**Number of Advance projects:**  
More than 950

**Number of countries where the Advance projects are located:**  
More than 120

**Website where you can learn about all of the Advance projects:**  
[www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects](http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects)

**Amount donated on Giving Tuesday 2013:**  
United Methodists collectively raised a record \$6.5 million online through The Advance. Eleven thousand individuals and churches in 34 countries gave more than 16,300 gifts through The Advance.

# ADVENT LITURGIES

## First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2014

**One:** Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing.

**All:** **We give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.** [*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a, adapt.*]

Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**One:** This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**One:** Loyal, constant, true and steadfast—this is what it means to be faithful, and God is faithful. When God makes a promise, we can always trust that God will do what God says. God promised us a Messiah. And in this season of Advent, we rejoice that the promise of the Messiah, this Child of hope, was fulfilled. We have all met people who have made promises but who have not followed through. God never fails. When our faithful God calls us to a partnership, we are reminded that this is no simple business partnership, but a full sharing—including sharing of resources and sharing in the rewards. Ever since the beginning, God was not solitary, but in partnership: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. God calls us to be in partnership with Jesus, to share fully in God's mission together. United Methodist missionaries understand partnership. They are called from everywhere to serve everywhere. But it is not just missionaries who serve; all Christians are partners together and together we are in partnership with the Lord.

**One:** God is faithful.

**All:** **And we are called by God.**

**One:** God calls us to partnership.

**All:** **Partnership with our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, the light of the world.**

**One:** We are not alone.

**All:** **We work together.**

**One:** God is faithful.

**All:** **Alleluia! Yes, God is faithful!**

*Light the first candle.*

**One:** Rejoice always!

**All:** **The Child of light is coming!**

C F C G C

I. I've got the light of God in me, I've got the

F C Am Dm7 G C7

light of God in me, I've got the

F C C/G E7 Am F Fm

Spir - it of the Son of God, I've got the

C/G G7 C

light of God in me.

WORDS & MUSIC: Trad. Cameroon. From "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing: Hymns and Praise of the United Methodist Mission in Cameroon"  
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*Written by Tara and Brian Vinson, serving in Zambia, Africa, in ministries such as church planting, Volunteer in Mission coordination, and Christian education training.*

Learn more and support their ministry at: <http://www.umcmmission.org/TVinson> (Advance #3021959) and <http://www.umcmmission.org/BVinson> (Advance #3021958).

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## Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2014

**One:** Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing.

**All:** **We give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.** [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a, adapt.]

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

**One:** This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Light the first candle.*

**One:** Every day many weary children of God journey from all corners of this vast earth, leaving behind their homes and countries ravaged by war, disease, poverty and injustice. Each is looking for the place where “righteousness and peace will kiss each other.” Children ride “La Bestia” train from the depths of gang-controlled Honduras to the edges of the United States with hope for lives outside the reach of the *Maras*. Women with malnourished babies endure years in Kenyan refugee camps with hope for health and sustenance. Families in the United States tremble in the shadows, fearful of the moment the deportation officers come to take someone from the home. This Advent season, listen! God’s voice is speaking peace to each of those who are faithful. Listen! We are the ones called by God to be partners together in steadfast love.

**One:** Oh God, illuminate the way for migrants on the journey from war, from disease, from poverty, from injustice.

**All:** **Let justice march out in front, making the path that we may follow.**

**One:** Help us to welcome and serve the neighbors in our midst, the newly arrived and the deeply rooted.

**All:** **Let justice march out in front, making the path that we may follow.**

**One:** We believe in a God who speaks peace to all peoples. We pray for the day when no child or adult is forced to leave their home in search of peace, health, safety or justice. Our hope is for the day we can walk together, neighbor with neighbor.

**All:** **Let justice march out in front, making the path that we may follow.**

*Light the second candle.*

**One:** Rejoice always!

**All:** **The Child of hope is coming!**

2. I've got the hope of God in me, I've got the  
 hope of God in me, I've got the  
 Spir - it of the Son of God, I've got the  
 hope of God in me.

WORDS & MUSIC: Trad. Cameroon. From "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing: Hymns and Praise of the United Methodist Mission in Cameroon"  
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*Written by Brynne Leah Howard, serving as a Church and Community Worker assigned as an attorney to work with Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).*

Learn more at: <http://www.umcmmission.org/BHoward>.

Support her ministry through The Advance #3021279.

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## Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2014

**One:** Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing.

**All:** **We give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.** [1 Thessalonians 5:16—18b, adapt.]

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 126

**One:** This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Light the first and second candles.*

**One:** Just as the Israelites petitioned God for deliverance from captivity, refugees and asylum seekers are desperate for deliverance from persecution today. Their tears water the ground as they flee their homes and leave their lives behind. Their prayers rise up to heaven as they languish for years in refugee camps. Their frustrations silently mount as they face discrimination and apathy in their new homeland. At such times, God's promises of eventual deliverance, justice and joy can seem distant. Yet the coming of Christ this Advent season gives us reason to rejoice despite our troubled world. We can rejoice always, knowing that salvation will come, that justice will be served and that those who go out weeping will one day return with songs of joy.

**One:** The pain of this world too often overwhelms us.

**All:** **May tears turn to songs of joy.**

**One:** Constant tragedies and senseless violence seem to steal our hope.

**All:** **May tears turn to songs of joy.**

**One:** God's promises give us light in the darkness.

**All:** **Tears will turn to songs of joy.**

*Light the third candle.*

**One:** Rejoice always!

**All:** **The Child of Joy is coming!**

3. I've got the joy of God in me, I've got the  
 joy of God in me, I've got the  
 Spir - it of the Son of God, I've got the  
 joy of God in me.

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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2014

**One:** Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing.

**All:** **We give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.** [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a, adapt.]

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:46b-55

**One:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*Light the first, second and third candles.*

**One:** Rejoice, for the Gospel of the Lord has been spread and lives have been transformed. Like Mary, we praise and thank the Lord for the good news of God's reign breaking in to our broken world. When God's reign breaks in, an ordinary and powerless girl named Mary becomes the most blessed of women. God continues to do great things for all those who come with faith. God stands with the weak, lifts up the small, defends the persecuted, fills the hungry and remembers the forgotten. Our God values people first, no matter how miserable, lowly and beat down they are. That gives us hope and joy as we proclaim and embody the Gospel to the world.

**One:** The Gospel of the Lord has been announced to the world!

**All:** **Our spirit rejoices.**

**One:** We sing of God's love and goodness and faithfulness to the people.

**All:** **Our soul vui mừng.\***

**One:** Let us share the good news of God's reign with joy and gladness and thankfulness.

**All:** **Our heart rejoices.**

*Light the fourth candle.*

**One:** Rejoice always!

**All:** **The Child of peace is coming!**

\* "Rejoice" in Vietnamese; phonetically: "vwee muhng"

4. I've got the peace of God in me, I've got the  
 peace of God in me, I've got the  
 Spir - it of the Son of God, I've got the  
 peace of God in me.

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## Christmas Eve/Christmas Day

**One:** Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing.

**All:** **We give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.** [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a, adapt.]

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

**One:** This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Light the four Advent candles.*

**One:** The images of violence and destruction in the world are often before our eyes and in our minds. It seems that nothing changes as the years pass. And then we hear the words of the Prophet Isaiah, who shows a radical different path to liberation, peace, love and justice. What hope he brings! Through the birth of this tiny boy-child, the world will be renewed, and violence and oppression will be overcome. God gives up power to become a helpless child. Hope comes with the mighty vision of the end of violence and oppression through the birth of this tiny human being. The life of the world in the hands of a newborn baby: unbelievable, too radical. We struggle with this message. And yet the prophet says: The world cannot be changed by power and might, but through a helpless baby, innocent and vulnerable. God help us to make this dream our dream every day. Let us be bearers of the hope this child brings in the way we live and act.

**One:** A child is born tonight ...

**All:** **to make all the difference.**

**One:** A child is born tonight ...

**All:** **for the peace of all.**

**One:** A child is born tonight ...

**All:** **for the light of the world.**

**One &**

**All:** **Let's celebrate Christmas: God's all-embracing love in a baby born for us.**

*Light the Christ candle.*

**One:** Rejoice always!

**All:** **The Child of Love is born this night!**

5. I've got the love of God in me, I've got the  
 love of God in me, I've got the  
 Spir - it of the Son of God, I've got the  
 love of God in me.

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