



“From Generation to Generation”

Week 1, November 27, 2022: “There’s Room for Every Story”

Gathering Music

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Worship Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What gives you hope?” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Adult: My two-year-old son. Child: Dogs wagging their tails. Older Adult: Talking with young people. Teenager: Kindness from strangers. Adult: Spending time in the woods. Child: Waffles. Older Adult: Hands clasped in prayer. Teenager: Social progress. Adult: The way my son calls everybody “buddy.” Child: The ringing of church bells. Older Adult: Babies trying over and over to take their first step. Teenager: The turning of seasons. Adult: Christian community. Child: Books. Older Adult: Friendship with my adult children. Teenager: Advocates for justice. Adult: Hearing children in the pews sing the hymns. Child: The sunrise every single morning.

Older Adult: What gives you hope?

Teenager: Today we light the candle of hope to remind ourselves that God is at work in this world.

Another worship leader or reader lights the candle.

Teenager: From generation to generation, God has brought good news of love and compassion, justice and community. Let us rest and abide in that good news. Amen.

Advent Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Call to Confession/Prayer of Confession/Words of Forgiveness

call to confession

In God’s house, everyone is welcome — those who seem like they have it all together, and those who feel like their world is falling apart. No matter who we are, there’s room for us here. With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer, speaking the truth of our lives. Let us pray:

prayer of confession

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, “Bring your full self. There’s room for you here.” **But we say, “Our lives are too messy.”** You say, “Bring your hopes and your dreams. There’s room for you here.” **But we say, “It’s too risky to hope.”** You say, “Bring your grief and your prayers. There’s room for you here.” **But we say, “Some things are easier to forget.”** God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there’s room for us here. **Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you. Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.** Help us remember, today and tomorrow, **There’s room for every story. Amen.**

words of forgiveness

Family of faith, We who feel scattered are held together. We who have lost our way are forgiven and found. And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told, “There’s room for you here.” From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Children’s Time

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:1-17

¹ An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, ⁴ and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.[†]

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Advent Hymn

Through the Ages (Text: Anna Strickland (2021), Tune: MUELLER aka “Away In a Manger” by James R. Murray (1887))

1 Oh down through the ages and generations

2 From Abraham, Isaac, and Israel’s line

From God in the garden to Jesus the son
Each story was woven, each one has a place
Within the great tapestry telling God's grace

How Rahab and Ruth and Bathsheba survived
From exile in Egypt to Babylon far
Christ's lineage shows how complex stories are

3 And still through the ages our stories will find
Belonging in God's story of humankind
From God in the garden to eternity
We're woven together as one tapestry

Sermon "From Generation to Generation: There's Room for Every Story"

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Response to the Word, Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who promised to Abraham, who wrestled with Jacob, who walked with Ruth, who spoke with Moses, who grieved with Bathsheba, who danced with David, who dreamed with Joseph, and who hoped like Mary. We believe in a God who has been loving, inviting, transforming, and challenging us from generation to generation. And we believe that same God is here with us now, saying, "Come on in; there's room for you here." Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn

Chorus 1
Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story

Make Room

Chorus 2
You can come as you are
It may set you apart
When you make room in your heart
And trade your dreams for His glory
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart

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Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow having blessed us with time, talent, and treasure, we in turn are to bless others in our stewardship of all you entrust to us. Receive the financial offerings we make and put them to good use. Amen.

Advent Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

UMH 211, v. 1, 4, 5, 7

¹ O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. (R)

⁴ O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on thy mercy call. (R)

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

⁵ O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free,
And conquer death's deep misery. (R)

⁷ O come, Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
Deliver us from earthly strife. (R)

Benediction

Passing of the Peace