

Leominster

United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023 | 9:30am

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*



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Rev. Michelle Ashley, Pastor

Order of Worship

*Indicates standing as able. **BOLD TYPE** indicates words spoken in unison by the congregation.

Gathering

Greeting and Announcements

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| Prelude | “Come, Long-Expected Jesus” R. Gardner | Marcia Bisson |
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| *Lighting of the Advent Wreath | Bob and Jean Wylie |
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This wreath is the great circle of time,
held in the promise of God.

Light dawns; a new day is coming.

Stay awake and be ready,
for you don't know when grace will appear!
God of love, teach us to see with eyes of faith.

Direct our hope, and transform our longing.
Keep us alert to your coming,
shining with mercy and lively with hope.

The first Advent candle is lit.

In the darkness there is a dawning.
**In the night of our doubt and our longing,
a gentle light begins to rise.**

We light this candle to waken our hearts.
Kindle in us deep trust in your coming.

Open our eyes to your presence.
Raise up our hearts, for you are near.

Help us be attentive, to watch with faith.
Come, O Jesus, come, and bless us with your grace.

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| *ProceSSIONal | “O Come, O Come, | UMH #211, |
| Hymn | Emmanuel” | v. 1-4 |

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| Opening Prayer | Belinda Scott |
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| Children’s Message | Pastor Michelle |
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| Old Testament | Isaiah 64:1-9 | Belinda Scott |
| Lesson | | |

Sung Response

Tune: “Away in a Manger”

*We wait in a world full of darkness and sin
for news of your realm of Shalom breaking in.*

*Yet now in the night the blest time hastens on;
awaken our faith in the coming of dawn.*

*Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Belinda Scott

Lesson

For the word of God in
scripture,

For the word of God
among us,

For the word of God
within us,

Thanks be to God

*Sung Response

Tune: "Away in a Manger"

*Oh hear us, we pray, God, for dark is the night,
and still we are waiting in hope for the light.*

*Oh teach us to trust you, preparing the way,
until with rejoicing we enter the day.*

Sermon

Pastor Michelle

Invitation to Offering

Belinda Scott

Offertory

"Christmas Communion
Song"

Senior Choir

S. N. Callaway

*Please place Commitment Cards, Prayer Cards,
and Visitor Information Cards in the offering plate.*

Doxology

UMH #95

*Prayer of Dedication

Belinda Scott

Invitation

Pastor Michelle

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Michelle

The Lord's Prayer

UMH #895

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Giving the Bread and Cup

Communion Prayer

UMH #11

*Recessional
Hymn

“People Look
East”

UMH #202

*Benediction

Pastor Michelle



*Lightening of the Advent Wreath, Opening Prayer, #1 Sung
Response, and #2 Sung Response, written by Steve Garnaas-
Holmes and used with permission.*



Please join us immediately following the service in the
Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour!

