

I wait

Envisioning what might come next is something humanity pursues. While it is purposeful to plan, we envision spring even though it’s barely winter, we envision our children grown when they are in the midst of developing and we imagine a life retired because we can’t clearly see our contributions. Christmas can coax us into a glossy illusion as we wait for what we individually and collectively see lunging around the calendar corner. The future flops and flips, and life seems like an attempt to mightily push or pull the winter wind.

Advent is a time we wait as well, but for what unique outcome? Is it for one mere day of December 25th; is it for the possibility of peace to finally eek an arrival or, conceivably, for some lofty daydream of a storybook sugar plum? Significantly, *Adventus* simply means something is coming. In this case, it is not the advent of what will come; rather, it is a celebration of what has come or rather who has come to shape brightly covered parcels of an awesome opportunity. What has come is the historically changing “thin place” for hope, peace, joy and love to be opened in our worlds. We can now visualize how the radical ways of Jesus pioneer an expansive, free opening to unwrap whispers of kindness, the touch of tender mercy and ribbons of justice to be woven through the Sacred and us. The Advent of this less secular life is apparent in Joseph’s perpetual loyalty, in Mary, who pondered what is sacred in her heart from the birth of the Savior-babe, Jesus, to the looming cross and in the more sacred and less secular lives we live.

The glitch, though, of unwrapping these gifts is that humanity is less acquainted with waiting, even though we recognize time does not belong to us. Sue Monk

Kidd has a wise thought she shares in her book, *When the Heart Waits*: “I had tended to view ‘waiting’ as mere passivity. When I looked it up in the dictionary however, I found that the words passive and passion come from the same Latin root. Waiting means descending into self, into God, into deeper labyrinths of prayer. It means struggling with the passionate vision of who we really are in God and molding the courage to live that vision.” Pierre Teilhard de Chardin writes of a God who we live with and in and have in our being. This philosophy was common in ancient faith traditions. He writes: “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”

To close, humanity will always think, wonder and wait within our life experience. We might know or have someone important who is wandering this Advent, possibly someone as near as you or me. Waiting holds human doubt. For me, there were times when I was as strewn about as the manger straw. Yet, we have a God who wanders with us as far and as deep and as high as we wander — and yet, sees our place of importance regardless of our wavering. Way before we got to our wandering, the Power of deep Compassion swooped, held humanity fast and cradled us. Advent is waiting passionately, “descending into self, into God and into a prayer” coaxing our courage to envision Emmanuel — God in us shaping Brightness. This kind of Brightness begins even today in a life-cuddled manger. Yet, as we have experienced in the living of our own “advents,” this Brightness does not stay there, rather it transcends to “a transformation given by the renewing of your mind and soul... .” (*Romans 12:2*). Amen. ~ J. Jacot

Prayer at WBLUMC: One way our church helps nourish and support the hungers of life is through prayer. If you have a special need or celebration that could use extra care, we invite you to partake in one of these prayer avenues. If your spirit has the need to support others through prayer, we invite you to join in one of the teams. **The Prayer Team:** If you would like to request a prayer from this team, please write it on a prayer request card or contact Julie Jacot at 651-777-3728 or ljjacot@q.com. **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts requests by contacting a pastor or leader Ronda Nelson, rondalauva2@msn.com. **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. If you would like to request a prayer, call Eva Shipley at 651-429-3570. **Hospital visits:** If you are hospitalized and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the church at 651-429-9026 or email office@wblumc.org. Because of privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify churches when someone is admitted. Our pastors and BeFrienders are available to anyone who requests a visit or call.

I am Worship ~ Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 9, 2018

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS • PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

O Peace,
that long, sacred horizon where violent dust settles
onto heaven’s gentle calm.
You are the prophet’s cry and the angel’s midnight song,
a lullaby for the wolf and promise to the lamb.
Holy Peace,
given, yet still sought, enfold God’s earth this Advent,
warming hearts until every sharp edge curves,
smoothed and burnished, toward you.

Amen.
~ Pamela C. Hawkins

PRELUDE

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”
Solo, Amy McNabb

arr. Aaron David Miller

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Chancel Choir

Gustav Holst

+OPENING WORDS

We look forward — to seeing a new star appear in the sky, prompting those far off to draw near to you.
Lord Jesus, draw us to you.
We look forward — to the familiar stable scenes, their mangers standing empty, waiting to receive you.
Lord Jesus, come to us anew.
We look forward — to hearing again the angels singing “Glory to God and Peace to all the earth.”
Lord Jesus, let us take up their song.
We look forward — to seeing shepherds and kings alike, poor and humble, noble and wealthy,
all bowing before you.
Lord Jesus, unite us in worship.
We look forward — to remembering a humble girl, with an ordinary background,
chosen to bring your hope into the world.
Lord Jesus, bring new hope through us.

†OPENING HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
1, 4 & 7

No. 211

UNISON PRAYER

God, for whom we watch and wait: you made your coming known to us by the voice of an angel who spoke to Mary, and she put her trust in you. May we hear your Word today, and put our trust in you as she did, with courage, hope, and love. Amen.

ANTHEM

“Blessed Be”

Timothy Shaw

Cherub Choir & Chancel Choir with Handbells by Joy Ballou, Rick Flynn and Marcia Lantto

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Marcia Faust, Julie Perreira, Allison Faust

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After this message, children and youth through 9th grade are invited to leave for Sunday school.

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38

Reader: Liz Kaufenberg

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Leader: For the word of God in Scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Messages of Advent: The Message of the Angel

Pastor John McBride

†HYMN

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

No. 184

CONNECTION CARDS

Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards to help us track attendance. After the prayer of dedication, you may place them in the offering plates as they are passed to you.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

“Cornerstone”

Shawn Kirchner

Chancel Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

†CLOSING HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

No. 206

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

“People Look East”

Thomas Keesecker

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thanks to all who bought poinsettias to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.
The list of donors and dedications will be in the 9am bulletin on Sunday, Dec. 16.
You may pick up your plant after the 10pm worship on Christmas Eve.

And thank you from the Cherub Choir to Mary Ellen Calderwood, who hemmed choir robes so they would fit our littlest friends.



2018 Children's Advent and Christmas programs

Songs and sparkles Dec. 9 & 16: In the Kids' Theater downstairs, we'll sing a Christmas song, watch a short nativity video, then go to classrooms for a seasonal story and ornament craft at 9 and 1045am.

"God's Greatest Gift" magic show Dec. 23: Celebrate the last day of Sunday School for 2018 with a seasonal show by Christian magician Brian Richards at both education hours in the theater downstairs.

Sunday, Dec. 9

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats, Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children's Church & nursery

Monday, Dec. 10

10am—Hang Loose Women's Al-Anon, room 206
1-3pm—UMW Sarah Circle Christmas gathering, offsite
7-8:30pm—Hearts & Hands knitting group, library

Tuesday, Dec. 11

10-11:30am—Dorcas Circle staff brunch, Fellowship Hall
6pm—YogaDevotion class, Fellowship Hall
6-8pm—Board of Directors, room 107
6:30pm—Trustees meeting, church office
7-8:30pm—Finance committee, room 200
7-9pm—Staff-Parish Relations committee, room 206

Wednesday, Dec. 12

9:45-11:45am—UMW Dorcas Circle, room 200
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Children's & Youth Activities
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

Thursday, Dec. 13

7:10am—Men's Breakfast Group, library
9am-3pm—The Gathering, room 200/Fellowship Hall
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107
1-3pm—Outside book club, library
7:30pm—Adult Faith "Wonderful Life" outing, offsite

Friday, Dec. 14

OFFICE CLOSED; no activities scheduled

Saturday, Dec. 15

7:30am—Men's Prayer Group, room 200
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women's Group, 200/206

Sunday, Dec. 16

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats, Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children's Church & nursery

Welcome

WHITE BEAR LAKE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Our vision is to provide nourishment
for the hungers of life.

REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Sunday:	9am to 12pm
Monday-Thursday	9am to 3pm
Friday and Saturday	CLOSED

SUNDAY BULLETIN/WEEKLY E-BLAST

Have a church-related event you'd like to appear in the Sunday bulletin or the weekly e-blast? Please email all pertinent information, including contact information, to office@wblumc.org no later than **1pm Tuesday** for the bulletin and **10am Wednesday** for the e-blast. *All information is subject to staff approval.* Thank you!

To receive the weekly email update — sent every Thursday — call the office at 651-429-9026, email your request to office@wblumc.org or indicate it on a connection card.

Visit wblumc.org for sermon podcasts, PDFs of the 9am bulletins, the church calendar and programming info.

Bill Eaves, Senior Pastor
bill.eaves@wblumc.org,
763-355-7825 mobile

John McBride, Associate Pastor
Missie Aberle, Next Generation Minister

Lori McBride, Missions & Faith Development Minister

Joan Hartman, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Peteria Cochran Routt, Director of Traditional Music

John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music
Gerald Gurs, Chancel Choir Director

Patricia Kytola, Director of Operations

Lauri Hopple, Administrative Assistant

Lori Hughes, Website & Social Media

Carol Houghtby, Treasurer

Carolyn Keith, Financial Secretary
Ron Houde, Housekeeper



Next week!
Lessons & Carols
Join us for music focused on
Advent, Solstice, and New Year

Sunday, Dec. 16 @ 9am: Chancel Choir

Sunday, Dec. 16 @ 1045am: Joe Cruz & Jennifer Grimm

All are welcome, bring a guest!



Christmas Eve worship

**Please join us Monday, Dec. 24, 2018,
at any of our three services**

3pm: A shorter family service with carols and the Christmas story told through the ABCs, with the Children's and Cherub choirs.

5pm: A contemporary service of carols led by the music team.

10pm: A traditional service of carols and candle-lighting featuring the Chancel Choir and handbells.

Trees for Books update

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who purchased origami trees or donated to our Read 5000 program for Willow Lane Elementary in White Bear Lake. Through your generosity, we collected nearly \$1,750. This means we have book fairs funded through 2019. The Faith in Action team expresses its sincere appreciation for your generosity!



Judy Slomkowski, Susan Schultz, Tammey Busch and Linda Anderson with the origami trees that were beautifully folded by the Faith in Action team.

Adopt-a-Pot gratitude

For whom the bell tolls: We've become accustomed to common expressions that are bigger than jingle bells, such as "For whom the bell tolls" and "Let freedom ring." The south urns, given by **Don and Verna Sonsalla**, hold bursts of evergreen to represent the mission carried by service members, along with bursts of red and clusters of blue juniper berries and glass bells to ring out liberty and peace. "Let freedom ring" is derived from the American song *My Country 'Tis of Thee* and its writer, Samuel Francis Smith, hoped the faithful ideals of liberty and life might be allowed to ring across the earth. All countries are of Thee.

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of thy wings: These words are actually a Biblical proverb telling us we are precious and beloved. The east urns, given by **Phil and Kathy Siegle**, hold a large glass apple. As you might suppose, an apple is not a common Middle Eastern fruit; however, this proverb included an apple when the Bible was translated from Germanic into Old English. It was believed the apple of the eye, or pupil, allowed for light and reflection. Christmas is a reflective time when we celebrate the beloved birth of Love and God's keeping.

Hearts & Hands

Our knitting and crochet group will meet a week early this month, at 7pm **Monday, Dec. 10**, in the church library. All are welcome, even if you haven't attended before.

December book club

Book club will meet at 7pm on **Monday, Dec. 17**, in the church library to discuss *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. All welcome, even if you haven't attended before.

Adult Santa Shop helpers

We need 10 adults to help on **Saturday, Dec. 15**, 9:30am-1pm. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall, plus a description of what volunteers will do. If you're interested in donating new items for the Santa Shop, get information sheets at the bulletin board. Donations should be taken directly to Solid Ground.

Stewardship update

As of last Monday, we have received 156 giving plan cards totaling \$610,258, which puts us just over two-thirds of the way to our \$880,000 goal for the 2019 budget year.

The total number of giving plans we received last year was a little more than 200, so we believe our goal is well within reach if we match the same number as last year. Over the next few weeks we will reach out to those who pledged last year, but who have not yet returned a giving plan card for 2019. If you haven't submitted yours yet, we encourage you to do so ASAP so the 2019 budget can be finalized.

Thanks to everyone who has returned a giving plan card and to all for past and future gifts. We are incredibly blessed to have such a generous congregation. We will continue to keep you apprised of our progress as we work toward our 2019 goal, so watch for future updates here in the bulletin and in the weekly e-blast.

Eagle Scout project completed

James Williams, son of Sally and John Williams, recently presented his completed Boy Scout Eagle project to the church. He designed and built a cupboard for the ushers, now situated at the back of the sanctuary near the doors. James also designed and built a donation box that will replace the old white food shelf cart. It's situated under the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, paired with information on our partner, the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf — but the box can be moved and used to collect donations of larger items wherever it's needed in the church. Take a moment to check out the craftsmanship and thank James for his work the next time you see him.



Christmas offering: Sending love and bringing hope to wildfire survivors

This Christmas we will receive a special offering for United Methodist Committee on Relief and the California-Nevada Annual Conference Disaster Response Recovery Fund. The UMC has boots on the ground to help those struggling to recover from the devastating wildfires that have ravaged lives and property across California.

UMCOR is the humanitarian

relief and development arm of the UMC, helping survivors with hands-on services as well as monetary support. One hundred percent of what UMCOR receives goes to the field to help individuals and churches affected by tragic events. The Cal-Nevada Conference is home to a number of UMC congregations severely affected by the fires — some facing church

property damage as well as the loss of homes and businesses of congregation members.

Watch for more details about what is happening through the United Methodist Church in California. And remember, God has richly blessed each of us, and we are called to give back. We hope you'll plan to give generously this Christmas Eve.