



*Bellflower UMC*

*First Sunday of Advent*

*Isaiah 40:31 - Those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength. They will soar on  
wings like eagles; they will run and not grow  
weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

## ENTRANCE

GREETINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v1

*Romans 12:12 (NIV) - Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

## PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

### ADVENT CANDLE<sup>1</sup>

*Reader One:* From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us,  
“The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I  
will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and  
the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days  
are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the  
longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need  
of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will  
receive their fulfillment.

**Hope, hope, hope,**

**May Earth be filled with hope.**

**The hope that fills the world with gladness,**

**Taking away our tears of sadness.**

**Hope, hope, hope,**

**May Earth be filled with hope.**

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<sup>1</sup> Text by Dr. Lisa Hancock. Copyright Discipleship Ministries.  
Lyrics and cover art by John Stuart. <https://stushieart.com>

*Reader Two:* We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

*Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.*

## HYMN

224. Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

234. O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Romans 15:13 (NIV) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

## CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:4-7 (NIV)

219. What Child is This

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?**

Luke 2:4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**This, this is Christ, the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

# INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

## LORD'S PRAYER

### RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**Incline Thine ear to us,**

**and grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*"The LORD is our righteousness."*

### GOSPEL

**Luke 21:25-36**

*Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but my words will not pass away.*

### DISCUSSION

### PEACE & OFFERING

### DOXOLOGY - #95

*Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is  
confidence in what we hope for and  
assurance about what we do not see.*

## THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

### HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world**

**in the strength of your Spirit,**

**to give ourselves for others,**

**in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Isaiah 41:10 (NIV) - Do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

## SENDING FORTH

### BLESSING<sup>2</sup>

In your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Go in hope.

### CANDLES

Go New In Peace

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Do you prefer using an electronic version of the bulletin? You can view this week's bulletin at <https://tinyurl.com/2s8ky54h>. If you use the electronic version, please let Pastor Rob know.

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Bellflower UMC spreads God's love within our church family and throughout our communities and world using our prayers, our gifts and our service; thus to become a shelter of love and a community of compassion..

To learn more, visit [facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC](https://facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC)

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (309-722-1500, [rob@methodist.cc](mailto:rob@methodist.cc))

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<sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV); Romans 15:13 (NIV)

## ***Every Day With Jesus***

This year we follow a Bible reading plan called “Every Day With Jesus”. With four short readings each day, we will have read the entire Bible by the end of the year.

12/01/24	Ezekiel 30:9-32:16	Psalms 132:6-12	Proverbs 28:19-22	1 Peter 2:18-3:12
12/02/24	Ezekiel 32:17-33:33	Psalms 132:13-18	Proverbs 28:23-25	1 Peter 3:13-4:11
12/03/24	Ezekiel 34:1-36:12	Psalms 133:1-134:3	Proverbs 28:26-28	1 Peter 4:12-5:14
12/04/24	Ezekiel 36:13-37:28	Psalms 135:1-7	Proverbs 29:1-3	2 Peter 1:1-21
12/05/24	Ezekiel 38:1-39:29	Psalms 135:8-12	Proverbs 29:4-6	2 Peter 2:1-22
12/06/24	Ezekiel 40:1-41:7	Psalms 135:13-21	Proverbs 29:7-9	2 Peter 3:1-18
12/07/24	Ezekiel 41:8-43:12	Psalms 136:1-9	Proverbs 29:10-12	1 John 1:1-2:11
12/08/24	Ezekiel 43:13-44:31	Psalms 136:10-16	Proverbs 29:13-14	1 John 2:12-29
12/09/24	Ezekiel 45:1-47:5	Psalms 136:17-26	Proverbs 29:15-17	1 John 3:1-24
12/10/24	Ezekiel 47:6-48:35	Psalms 137:1-6	Proverbs 29:18-21	1 John 4:1-21
12/11/24	Daniel 1:1-2:35	Psalms 137:7-138:3	Proverbs 29:22-23	1 John 5:1-21
12/12/24	Daniel 2:36-3:30	Psalms 138:4-8	Proverbs 29:24-25	2 John 1-13
12/13/24	Daniel 4:1-5:31	Psalms 139:1-6	Proverbs 29:26-27	3 John 1-15
12/14/24	Daniel 6:1-7:28	Psalms 139:7-12	Proverbs 30:1-2	Jude 1-13