



# Bellflower UMC

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

GREETINGS<sup>1</sup>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING 

706. Soon and Very Soon<sup>2</sup>

**Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon, We are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, We are going to see the King.**

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>3</sup>

We gather again at the end of the year to wait for the Christ child anew.

**We wait in the shocking hope  
of the coming of the Messiah.**

We wait, and we remember the astounding things God has done to save God's people.

**We wait in the shocking hope  
of the coming of the Messiah.**

We wait, and we pay attention for signs of God's justice and mercy turning the world upside down.

**We wait in the shocking hope  
of the coming of the Messiah.**

We wait, and in our waiting, we learn to live as people of God's promise.

**Let us worship in the shocking hope of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.**

↑<sup>4</sup>HYMN 

246. Joy to the World

↑HYMN 

207. Prepare the Way of the Lord

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<sup>1</sup> Cover art by KaLisa Veer, <https://unsplash.com/@kalisaveer>

<sup>2</sup> Andraé Crouch. ©1971 Bud John Songs, Inc.; Crouch Music Corp. CCLI 11249

<sup>3</sup> Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

<sup>4</sup> ☐ Please stand as you are able.

↑SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:24-37

DISCUSSION

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

RESPONSE 🎵🎵

CONFESSION & PARDON<sup>5</sup>

We confess that we are not ready.

**We call on you to rend the heavens and come down, and yet  
we aren't ready for you to rend our hearts and enter in.**

When it comes to meeting you face-to-face, we hesitate. We  
fear what you will find in us and among us.

**We are uncertain that we really want our lives to be turned  
upside down by the good news.**

**We want the hope that comes with knowing you are coming  
to us, but we're not sure we're ready for the shock of that  
hope.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our fear that we might  
joyfully live in the hope that shakes us up and turns us  
around to follow you.**

*Silent confession.*

Hear the good news:

God is the Potter, and we are the clay.

We are the work of God's hand.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

OFFERING & PEACE

↑DOXOLOGY - #95 🎵🎵

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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<sup>5</sup> Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

LORD’S PRAYER - #895  
HOLY COMMUNION  
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION  
SENDING FORTH<sup>6</sup>

Beloved of God, keep awake! Stay alert!  
Pay attention to God at work all around you.  
And now, go from this place  
blessed to be bowled over by hope  
and shocked out of our complacency  
to watch and wait and join in the work  
of bringing God’s dream for all creation to life. Amen.

POSTLUDE 🎵🎵  
Go Now In Peace

Week 49 Reading Plan:

Mon	2 Corinthians 1-4	Fri	Romans 4-7
Tue	Corinthians 5-9		
Wed	Corinthians 10-13	Sat	Romans 8-10
Thu	Acts 20:1-3 Romans 1-3	Sun	Romans 11-13

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)).

<sup>6</sup> Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.