



Bellflower UMC

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

GREETINGS^{1 2}

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP³

O come, O come, Immanuel,
And be light for our darkness.

Be comfort in our grief,
Be a friend for our loneliness,
An oasis for our searching.

O come, O come, Immanuel,
Restore our joy, heal our wounds, and bring us peace.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING⁴

Reader One: For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home.

Reader Two: There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

² Eleanor Farjeon. *People, Look East*. 1928.

³ Dr. Derek C. Weber, Discipleship Ministries. <http://umcdiscipleship.org>

⁴ Dr. Derek C. Weber, Discipleship Ministries. <http://umcdiscipleship.org>

are reminded of when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.

Reader One: The prophet Malachi tells us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home.

Light two candles of the Advent wreath.

HYMN

Go, Tell It On the Mountain - UMH251

O Come, All Ye Faithful - UMH234

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - UMH895

OT READING - Malachi 3:1-4

GOSPEL - Luke 3:1-6

SERMON

OFFERING & PEACE

DOXOLOGY - UMH95

HOLY COMMUNION - UMH13

POSTLUDE

BENEDICTION⁵

You know the time is coming!

The time to wake from our sleep.

Salvation is nearer to us now than
when we became believers.

The night is gone, the day is near.

Let us lay aside the works of darkness.

We will wear the armor of light.

Go in peace.

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

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, pastor@bellflower-umc.org).

⁵ UM Book of Worship, 243. Adapted.