



Mt Vernon UMC

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

## GREETINGS <sup>1 2</sup>

*Katie Stout*

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 WORSHIP<sup>3</sup>

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 LIGHTING<sup>4</sup>

*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

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<sup>1</sup> Cover art by John Stuart, [www.stushieart.com](http://www.stushieart.com).

<sup>2</sup> Eleanor Farjeon. *People, Look East*. 1928.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

**HOLY COMMUNION - UMH17**

**POSTLUDE**

**BENEDICTION<sup>5</sup>**

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.

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God calls Mt Vernon UMC to:

- Love God & neighbor as Jesus taught
- Learn together of God's love and grace
- Serve others by using our God given gifts and talents
- Be witnesses of our faith in God through Jesus Christ to all the world!.

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

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 (217-751-4400, [pastor@mtvernon-umc.org](mailto:pastor@mtvernon-umc.org)).

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<sup>5</sup> UM Book of Worship, 243. Adapted.