



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1610 Prince Street, Conway, Arkansas, 501-329-3801, www.conwayfumc.org

The First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE WELCOME

Prelude Ave maris Stella Nicolas de Grigny (1671–1703)

THE SERVICE OF THE LIGHT

Lighting the First Advent Candle

Reader

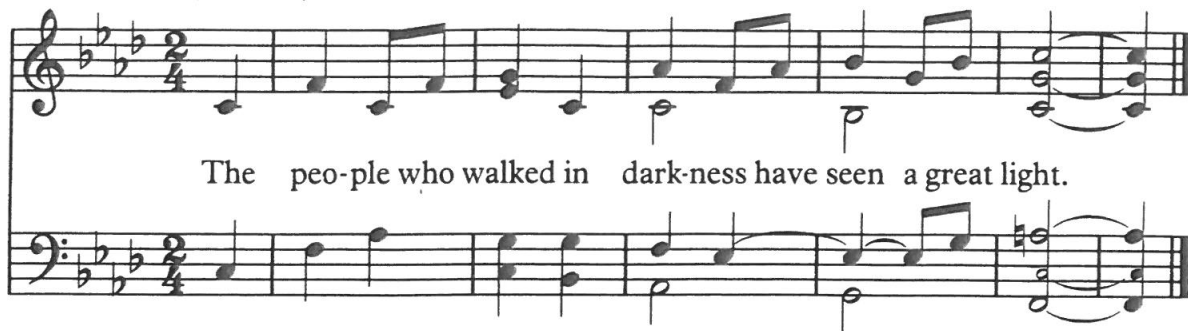
The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (*Isaiah 2:4*).

All **Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.**

Reader

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Antiphon, sung first by the choir, then by all



*** Hymn 718**

Lo, he comes on clouds descending

Helmsley

The Confession and Pardon, said by all

Merciful God, in a world of quick fixes and fast answers, we confess that we forget how to wait. We have rushed past your voice and ignored your promises. We have filled the silence with noise instead of listening for your coming. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hope and teach us to watch again for You, through Jesus Christ, our Coming Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Officiant

The God of all hope pours out mercy upon all who seek it. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All **In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Glory to God, Amen!**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Prayer for Illumination, said by all, seated

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word

*The * indicates all stand.*

proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.
Amen.

The Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 11:1–10

Reader The word of God for the people of God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

*** Hymn 213** Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates *Truro*

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 24:36–44

Pastor The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

*** The Affirmation of Faith**, Hymnal p. 881

Concerns and Prayers, *all seated*

The Lord's Prayer, text at Hymn 270

The Offering

Anthem

Climb to the top of the highest mountain C. Jennings (b. 1936)

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world, lift up your voice, shout the good news: behold, your Lord comes to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry the lambs in his arms, he will ever keep them safe from harm. He who made the stars in the heaven, he who fashioned the earth and the sea, from time eternal, he was Alpha and Omega, he. He will come in power, he will rule with mercy and truth. Hope of all the nations. Light of all. He will love the little children, he will hold them in his arms. Love and trust him as a child, behold, your Lord comes to you.

— *Isaiah 4*

You may give in these ways:

Text "Give" to 501-500-5335

or place cash or a check in the offering plate

or scan the QR code.



As the offering is presented, the following hymn is sung by all:

*** Hymn 95**

Old 100th

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

THE SENDING FORTH

*** Hymn 168**

At the Name of Jesus

King's Weston

The Dismissal with Blessing

Officiant *The peace of Christ be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

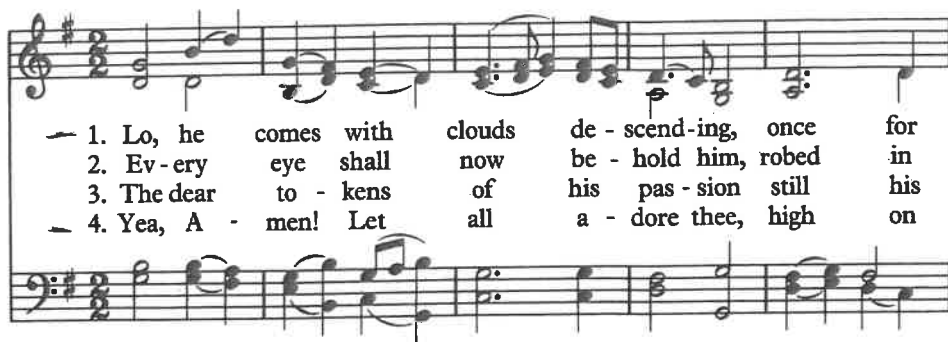
The Response *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* *Es ist ein Ros'*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.

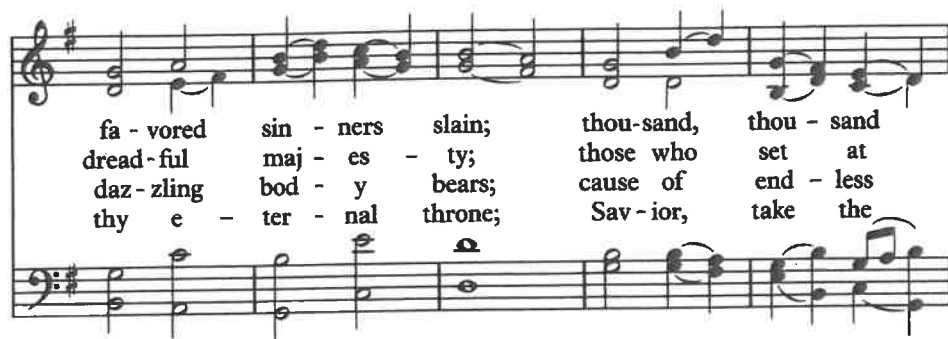
Postlude *Dialogue sur les grand jeux* *Nicolas de Grigny*

*To protect the beauty and historic nature of this worship space,
the trustees request no food or drinks in the sanctuary. Thank you.*

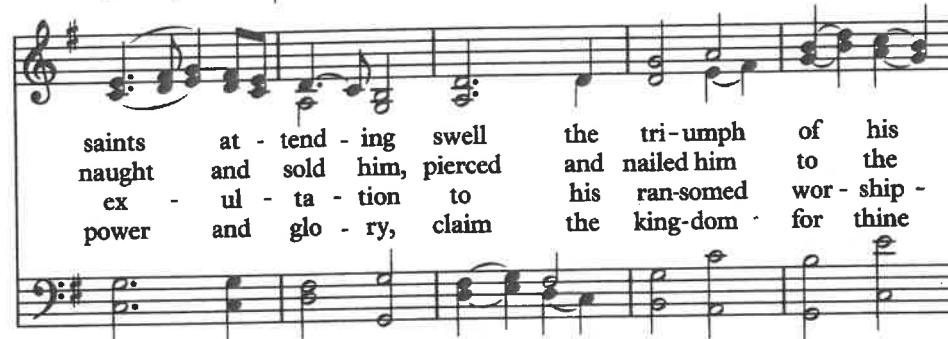
718 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending



1. Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2. Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3. The dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his
 4. Yea, A - men! Let all a - dore thee, high on



fa - vored sin - ners slain; thou - sand, thou - sand
 dread - ful maj - es - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bod - y bears; cause of end - less
 thy e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry, claim the king - dom for thine



train. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1758 (Rev. 1:7)

MUSIC: Trad. English melody, 18th cent.; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HELMSLEY
87.87.47

Hal - le - lu - jah! God ap - pears on earth to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Ev - er - last - ing God, come down!

My Lord, What a Morning

719

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing;

Fine

oh, my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.

1. You'll hear the trum-pet sound,
 2. You'll hear the sin-ner moan, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
 3. You'll hear the Chris-tian shout,

D.C.

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual (1 Cor. 15:51-52; Rev. 6:12-17)

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1987

BURLEIGH
Irr.

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

213 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;
 3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide;
 4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on

be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;
 make it a tem - ple, set a - part
 our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;
 un - til our glo - rious goal is won;

the King of kings is draw - ing near;
 from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy;
 let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;
 e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame

the Sav - ior of the world is here!
 a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 thy grace and love in us re - veal.
 be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Ps. 24)
 MUSIC: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
LM

At the Name of Jesus

168

Unison

1. At the name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2. Hum-bled for a sea - son, to re-ceive a name
 3. Bore it up tri - um - phant with its hu - man light,
 4. In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due

ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 through all ranks of crea - tures to the cen - tral height,
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.

'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 faith-ful - ly he bore it, spot-less to the last,
 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.

WORDS: Caroline M. Noel, 1870 (Phil. 2:5-11)
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925

KING'S WESTON
 65.65 D

Music by permission of Oxford University Press



HAPPENINGS



Nov. 30,
2025



Let's Talk About It FAMILY DYNAMICS During the Holidays

Please join the Church & Society committee of Conway First United Methodist Church for our Fifth Sunday Presentation on November 30th at 10AM in the Great Hall.

We'll have a panel of professionals speaking about how to approach difficult topics with family members and protect your mental health during the holidays.

Follow the QR code below to submit any specific questions or topics you would like our pros to address.

Journey Through Advent

November 30, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Join us in the Great Hall for hands-on activities to help your family get ready for Advent!

We're collecting lip balm and hand lotion for our homebound friends.



Poinsettia Fund Donations

The Worship Committee invites you to memorialize or honor someone special to you this Christmas season by contributing to the Poinsettia Fund. All those in whose name a gift is given and the donors will be listed in the worship bulletin on Sunday, Dec. 21. Any donation amount is appreciated.

Donations must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 17, for names to be printed in the bulletin.

There are two ways to donate:

* Fill out a copy of the printed form and make your check payable to First United Methodist Church. Copies of the form are available at the church office or by email from cholt@conwayfumc.org.

* Donate online at www.conwayfumc.org under the "Give Online" button. Choose the "poinsettia fund" option; please include in the note section the names of those you are honoring or memorializing, and the correct way you want your name listed.

This year, donations to the Poinsettia Fund will be distributed to Hope Village, an initiative of City of Hope Outreach (CoHo) to tackle the issue of homelessness.

Save the Date

Longest Night Service

6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Chapel

Christmas Eve Carols, Candles & Communion

11 a.m., Sanctuary

3 p.m., Great Hall

5 p.m., Great Hall

7 p.m., Sanctuary

Christmas Day

Worship

10 a.m. Dec. 25,
in the Sanctuary

