The UMC of New City Hybrid Worship

November 29, 2026
1st Sunday of Advent, "If Christmas Came Today" - Week 1

Welcome — Pastor Amanda
Prelude — Dr. Diana Hughes

Call to Worship

Leader: Can you feel it? Can you hear it? Can you sense it's drawing near?
People: Christmas is coming!
Leader: And with Christmas comes hope.
People: We hope in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Hymn #196 (UMH) *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

1. **Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

2. **Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Unison Prayer

The waiting begins. The longing. The preparations. The promise. We gather together in worship in this season called Advent to await the promised coming of the Newborn King. Gracious God, who gives us Christmas, be with us in our waiting and in our wanting. May what we want, and what we wait for, be acceptable in your sight, that, at the end of this season, and indeed even throughout it, what we find will be Jesus. It is in his name we pray. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

The Candle of Hope — Norma and Shana Christian

Children's Message

First Scripture Reading *Isaiah 7:14* — Konrad Soong

The Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

Second Scripture Reading *Mark 13:32-37*

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the

house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Third Scripture Reading *Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Message *"If Christmas Came Today"* - Week 1 Rev. Dr. Amanda Hemenetz

Hymn #211 (UMH) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verses 1, 2, 6, 7

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

   (Refrain): ***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

2. **O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.** *(Refrain)*

6. **O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.** *(Refrain)*

7. **O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.** *(Refrain)*

Prayer Requests and Praises
Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Announcements

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings Dr. Diana Hughes

**Doxology #95 (UMH) *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication:

Almighty God, bless these gifts and use them to your glory. Fill us with hope this Advent. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

**Hymn #203 (UMH) *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

1. **Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**
2. **He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.**
3. **He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.**
4. **To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove; his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.**

**Blessing

**Choral Benediction *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

We wish you a merry Christmas. We wish you a merry Christmas. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring, to you and your kin; good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!

We wish you a merry Christmas. We wish you a merry Christmas. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Postlude Dr. Diana Hughes

Please join us for a pizza lunch and Chrismon decorating!

Thank you for joining us in worship today. You are always welcome here! To be added to our email list, ask questions, request pastoral care, or explore the possibility of membership, contact the church office at umcofnewcity@gmail.org or call (845) 634-1758.

Our youngest worshippers (Pre-K through 6th grade) are invited to our "Children's Church Table" after the Children's Message.

Our thrift shop, Angel's Attic, is open Saturdays 9am-2pm and Thursdays 10am-12pm.

We are a Reconciling Church; we fully love and accept ALL, including LGBTQ+ individuals and families.

Our Mission Statement is "Serving God through Serving the Community."

**Indicates to please stand, if you are comfortable doing so. 'UMH' = The United Methodist Hymnal (red); 'TFWS' = The Faith We Sing (black). Both are available from the ushers.

"Thank You" to Rita Negrón Maslanek for providing our altar flowers, and to Beverly Abercrombie for our dessert.

QR Code for *online giving*

May you go in Christ's peace, assured of God's love.

