

\*Lighting of the Advent Candle

On this first Sunday of Advent,  
we light a candle for love.  
**We light a candle for love.**  
**May it light the Way.**

\*Worship with Song  
**Mary, Did You Know?**

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has come to make you new;  
This child that you delivered,  
will soon deliver you?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will calm the storm with his hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod?  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You kiss the face of God?  
Mary, did you know?*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear  
The dead will live again,  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb!*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Is heaven's perfect Lamb,  
And the sleeping child you're holding  
is the great, I Am?*

*Oh, Mary, did you know?*

\*Passing of the Peace  
\*Worship with Song  
**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming** UMH, 216

**To Breathe God In**

Children's Church

Reading of Scripture Luke 1.26-38, NRSVue

Hymn of Preparation:  
**To A Maid Whose Name was Mary**  
UMH, 215

Reading of Scripture Isaiah 11.1-5, NRSVue

Words from the past made new to us today  
**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Message **New Life in Nazareth**  
Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox

Worship with Music & Reflection  
**Breath of Heaven**  
Marsha Barter & Vicki Spear

**And to become  
the Breath of God in Community**

Worship with our Tithes & Offerings

Musical Offertory  
Doxology  
*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.*

Worship with Communion

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to God.**  
Let us give thanks to God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

...We gather at this table, praying that crooked  
ways be made straight, that valley's peace be

lifted up and mountain's might brought low so that  
all God's people might rejoice together, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one that comes in the name  
of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

...Revealed in stable, cross, and empty tomb, we  
give thanks, O God, for your limitless love for all.

With your people of all times and places, we await  
with hope the fulfillment of your vision for all  
creation.

**Bless us, O God, and these your gifts.**

**Encourage us to share your life and love,**

**which make us, and the gifts we share, truly holy.**

God made known in Jesus Christ,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness  
revealed:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Hymn of Blessing

***Forth in Thy Name, O Lord*** UMH, 438, vs. 1-3

Benediction

## *Thank You for Serving*

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox
<b>Liturgist</b>	Robin Martens
<b>Musician</b>	Marsha Barter
<b>Special Music</b>	Marsha Barter & Vicki Spear
<b>Song Leaders</b>	Jenny Lynn Girvan, Ken & Elaine Konyha
<b>Ushers</b>	Harry Barter & Patti Davidson
<b>Tech</b>	Keith Danielson , Dan Girvan, & John Faas

## **Join Us for Christmas by Candlelight**

**Tonight, 7 pm**



## *Centenary United Methodist Church*

The Breath of God in Community

December 3, 2023

## **First Sunday of Advent**

**We Gather Together**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

**For Worship**

\*Call to Worship

Our souls magnify the Lord.

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

The Mighty One has done great things for us.

**Holy is God's name.**

God's mercy is ever near, from generation  
to generation.

**God's strength scatters the proud,  
but lifts the humble of heart.**

God's love fills us up, nourishing  
our hungry souls.

**God's grace has called us here,  
strengthening our lives of faith.**

\*Please stand