

Astoria First United Methodist Church
November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP
*(*please stand if you are able)*

GATHERING MUSIC **Jane Hill**

ANNOUNCEMENTS **Mary Frances Gunn**

CENTERING MUSIC *“Holy Darkness”* **Jane Hill**

WORDS OF WELCOME **Mary Frances Gunn**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(If you are able, please stand) (Read responsively)* **Janet Todd**

L: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth
and bring my promised salvation to Israel.

P: The Lord is our righteousness.

L: The days are surely coming, says our God,
when justice and mercy will be executed
throughout the land.

P: The Lord is our righteousness.

L: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when my promised one will teach transgressors my ways,
and heal the world with love and mercy.

P: The Lord is our righteousness.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING **Pam Johnson and Violet Olsen**

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** **Mary Frances Gunn**

Righteous one, to you alone we lift our souls; in you alone, we place our trust; for you alone we wait all day long. For you are the God of our salvation, abounding in mercy and steadfast love. Help us remain alert and watchful for the coming of your promised one—the one who comes with power and glory, the one drawing near to bring our salvation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING	<i>“Psalm 25:1-10”</i> UMH #756	Janet Todd
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>“Canticle of the Turning”</i> an Irish traditional melody with text by Rory Cooney	Jane Hill
CALL TO RECONCILIATION		Mary Frances Gunn
PRAYER OF CONFESSION	(congregation)	Janet Todd
L: But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads. Luke 21:28		
P: We shudder at signs we see. Anxieties bombard us. Our hearts are afraid. Lord, Let us be vigilant, hold our heads high. Make us an Advent people with hope as our stronghold. Jesus, You once came into our world with all its sorrows. Keep us awake and alert to your presence in the midst of our struggles now. Tell us again that your love will triumph.		
MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION		
WORDS OF ASSURANCE		Mary Frances Gunn
God fulfills God’s promises. We may not know the time, but the days are surely coming when righteousness, justice, and safety will abide in our communities. The days are surely coming when God will execute Shalom: love, peace, health, and well-being for the people who walked in darkness. God fulfills God’s promises, and the days for fulfillment are surely coming. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.		
INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD		
*DOXOLOGY		Congregation UMH #95
*OFFERTORY PRAYER		
HYMN OF PREPARATION	(all verses) <i>“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”</i>	Congregation UMH #196
(We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays)		
GOSPEL LESSON	<i>“Luke 21:25-36”</i>	Mary Frances Gunn
SERMON	<i>“All The Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas”</i>	Video
JOYS AND CONCERNS		Janet Todd

PASTORAL PRAYER

Mary Frances Gunn

LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom (kin-dom) 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, (kin-dom), the power, and the glory, forever.
AMEN*

***BENEDICTION**

Mary Frances Gunn

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

December 5 - retired elder **Dave Kinman** who was once our pastor will bless us with his message.

December 12 - **Ron Crandall** will be with us again.

December 19 - the last Sunday of Advent we will again be lay led and finish the Advent Video *All the Good*.

One of the best ways we can continue to uphold Pastor Michael is to attend worship in his absence.

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.
If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.
We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**