

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING STATEMENT

Drawn together by the loving grace of God, we of Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church believe that there are no inherent barriers to living in relationship with Christ. We welcome into our faith community people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, physical and mental abilities, economic means, and family structures.

OPENING SONG

"Restore Us"

Words and Music: E. P. Atkins, 2005

Refrain:

**Restore us, O God,
let your face shine down
that we might be saved; ^[L]_[SEP]
stir up your might to save us,
save us,
save us,
save us. ^[L]_[SEP]**

^[L]_[SEP] O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. ^[L]_[SEP] Look down from
heaven and see,
breathe life into our lungs so we
can shout your name! **Refrain**

1. O Dayspring come and cheer
our spirits by your presence here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Look down from heaven and see,
breathe life into our lungs so we
can shout your name! **Refrain**

UMH 196 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747.

Music: Hyfrydol, Rowland H. Prichard 1830

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.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Harold Hughes (You are invited to light your own Advent candle in your own wreath at home at this time as well!)

Today we light the first candle of Advent.
We kindle it with hope.

We remember even from the past year alone
the many times we have longed for God to be
present with us, with this congregation, and
with this world.

The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear
open heaven and come down. He called God's
people to do right. Isaiah called them to be
refashioned like clay by God, the potter.

Almighty God, creator of the world, Alpha and
Omega, beginning and end, we cry out to you
this Advent to break through all that keeps us
from you. We ask you to reform us in your
image, restore us to wholeness. Be the light of
hope for us so that we may be a light for
others. Amen.

UMH 206 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Words and Music: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966.

*In him there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike;
The Lamb is the Light of the City of God;
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

PRAYERS

Karl; Kim; Roger and Linda; Carl; Austin;
Avis; Drew; Clyde; Michael & Carol Orr; Bob;
John; Martha; Robert; David; Josh; Jean;
Terry; Wendell; Nola & Bob; Candyce and
Jerry; Carol Ann; Leo; Tammy & Billy; Jurrell

Homebound

Alloyse; Jean, Bettie; Audrey; Clairetta;
Dorothy

SCRIPTURE – Mark 13: 24-37

SERMON - “God’s Surprises”
Rev. Kurt Boggan

CLOSING HYMN UMH 512

“Stand By Me”

By Ben E. King, Jerry Leiber, Michael Marino, Mike Stoller

When the night has come
And the land is dark
And the moon is the only light we'll see
No, I won't be afraid
No, I won't be afraid
Just as long as you stand, stand by me

[Chorus]

*So darlin', darlin' stand by me
Oh stand by me
Oh stand, stand by me, stand by me*

If the sky that we look upon
should tumble and fall
Or the mountain should crumble to the sea
I won't cry, I won't cry
No, I won't shed a tear
Just as long as you stand, stand by me

[Chorus]

*And darlin', darlin' stand by me
Oh stand by me
Oh stand now, stand by me, stand by me
Whenever you're in trouble
won't you stand by me*

BENEDICTION