

Banning United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Myrle Petty

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Myrle Petty

VIDEO

Bishop Escobedo-Frank's message of gratitude during this season of thanks

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Kyungsu Park

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Mona & Sonya Villegas

Hope Candle

First 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.

Second 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.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Myrle Petty

One: We may not know when,

Many: but You are coming to us, grace overflowing from Your heart, O God.

One: We may not know who,

Many: but Your hope will be shared by the least likely people, Friend of the poor.

One: We may not know how,

All: but Your peace will transform our angry words into warm welcomes, our bitterness into cups of love, Spirit of Joy.

†OPENING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

UMH #196

†OPENING PRAYER

Myrle Petty

When, O God, will the day of peace come? When will the nations stream to Your holy mountain and beat their swords into plowshares? When will war and hatred, give way to the dawn of love, righteousness, and joy? We are ready for the dawn, O God. Shine Your light into our world, mighty One of peace. Illuminate the path, and give us the wisdom and courage to follow Your light. We pray in the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Myrle Petty

Isaiah 2:1-5 NRSV

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He 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. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

GOSPEL READING

Rev. Kyungsu Park

Matthew 24:36-44 NRSV

³⁶ “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.**SERMON HYMN**

“Soon and Very Soon”

UMH #706

SERMON

“Don’t Count the Days”

Rev. Kyungsu Park

PRAYERS

Myrle Petty

CHILDREN IN PRAYER

(After each slide: In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer)

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Kyungsu Park

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Myrle Petty

MASON JAR MINISTRY (To benefit Holiday Wish Program)**OFFERTORY**

Cathy Mauge

†DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Myrle Petty

Ever-Watchful God, You call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer these gifts, we do so as people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world for Your coming reign. We confess that we often cling too tightly to our comforts and schedules, forgetting that Your Kingdom calls us to loosen our grip and lift our eyes. Awaken us, Lord, to the “someday” You are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and work—for Your future to break into our present. In the Name of the One who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Matthew 24:36-44)

SENDING FORTH**CLOSING HYMN**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

UMH #206

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†BENEDICTION

Rev. Kyungsu Park

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Cathy Mauge