

Banning United Methodist Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Dan Mabey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dan Mabey

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Kyungsu Park

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Kathy Bainter &

Peace Candle

Debbie McDonald

First Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

Second Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Mabey

One: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

Many: We come to be inspired by stories of a messiah who will change the world—and change us.

One: We come to listen for words of hope and joy, promise and challenge.

Many: We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts.

One: We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of waiting.

All: Come! Let us worship our God—the One who brings all things to fulfillment.

†OPENING HYMN

"Lo' How a Rose E'er Blooming"

UMH #216

†OPENING PRAYER Dan Mabey

God of hope and encouragement, we come in the midst of this season of busyness and preparations: to find a time and space to slow down, to reflect on what our true preparations should be. We need to prepare our hearts to receive the gifts of love and hope. We need to prepare our minds to focus on Your promise that a messiah will come and nothing will be the same. We need to prepare our spirits: to praise God for prophecy, promises, and reparation; to find hope and encouragement; to find peace and joy. May we do so now, in our time of worship. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Dan Mabey

Isaiah 11:1-10

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the

earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. 10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" 4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON HYMN

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

UMH #454

SERMON

"The Trouble With Repentance"

Rev. Kyungsu Park

PRAYERS

CHILDREN IN PRAYER

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

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dan Mabey

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dan Mabey

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'ly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dan Mabey

Persistent God of new paths, we have been called to prepare the way—not with platitudes, but with changed hearts and lives. In this season of turning and anticipation, we offer these gifts as signs that we long to live by Your story. Use them and use us to bear fruit worthy of repentance: fruit of justice, compassion, hospitality, and peace. Let our generosity reflect the nearness of Your Kingdom and the urgency of Your call. In the wilderness of fear and want, may this offering clear a path for hope to be seen, known, and shared. In the Name of the ONE who is coming and is already among us—Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Matthew 3:1-12)

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II

Hymnal Page 12

COMMUNION HYMN

"One Bread, One Body"

UMH #620

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING HYMN

"Where He Leads Me"

UMH #338

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Kyungsu Park

†BENEDICTION

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Cathy Mauge