



**November 30, 2025**

**First Sunday of Advent**



**Rockport United Methodist Church**

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Advent Sermon Series:**  
**Advent: A Season of Holy Disruption-**  
**When God Interrupts Our Plans to Heal the World**

November 30, 2025

9:30am

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please sign the attendance registry found in the pews near the center aisle; pass it through the pew and back again, noting the name of your neighbors.)

PRELUDE                                      *"What Child Is This"*                      Traditional English Melody

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING-The Candle of Hope**                                      Jim & Diana Leitch

READER 1: Advent begins with hope; hope that disrupts despair and reminds us that God is nearer than we think.

READER 2: The prophets cried out for God to tear open the heavens and come down. They longed for a world restored, renewed, and made whole.

READER 1: Today, we light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope.

READER 2: It represents the holy disruption that awakens us from apathy and stirs our hearts toward God's promises.

***ALL: As we light this candle, we declare our trust in the God who breaks into our darkness with unexpected, unstoppable hope.***

READER 1: Come, Lord Jesus.

READER 2: Hope of the world, shine in us.

***ALL: Amen.***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: In the beginning of Advent, when the nights grow longer and the world grows weary, God whispers a promise that disrupts our despair.

***PEOPLE: We come with open hearts, longing for the hope only God can bring.***

LEADER: When uncertainty overwhelms us and fear tries to quiet our faith, God tears open the heavens and draws near.

***PEOPLE: We lift our eyes to the One who awakens us from complacency and calls us to watch and wait.***

LEADER: When we are tempted to believe that nothing will ever change, God stirs the embers of hope within us until they blaze again.

***PEOPLE: We welcome the Holy One who disrupts our comfort to heal our wounds, restore our joy, and renew our courage.***

LEADER: In this season of expectation, God meets us in the ordinary and the unexpected.

**PEOPLE:** *We come seeking light, listening for truth, and preparing our hearts for the coming Christ.*

**ALL:** *Come, Lord Jesus. Break in. Break through. Disrupt us with your hope and make us ready to receive you. Amen.*

\*HYMN

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

UMH 211, vs. 1-4

\*UNISON PRAYER

*Gracious God, in this holy season of Advent, you invite us to watch for signs of your coming with expectation and wonder. Break through the noise that dulls our spirits and awaken us to the hope that disrupts fear, discouragement, and resignation. Tear open the heavens once more and remind us that no darkness can overshadow your light. Prepare our hearts to receive your promise with courage and joy. In the name of the One who is coming to make all things new. Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-4 NRSVUE

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:5-7, 11-20 NRSVUE

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God!***

ANTHEM

*"A Waiting Prayer"*

Dengler

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastoral Prayer

Offering Prayer

(Place your offering and pledge cards in the treasure chest in the narthex, mail in your giving, or go to the GIVE tab on the website:rockportumc.org)

**HYMN** *"Send Your Word"* UMH 195

**SERMON** "Disrupted by Hope" Pastor Tennille

**\*HYMN** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* UMH 196

**\*BENEDICTION**

**ROCKPORT RENOVATORS UPDATE** Dennis Kay & Dave Plachta

**\*POSTLUDE** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

\* Please stand as you are able

### SERVING THE LORD AT ROCKPORT

Pastor	Pastor Tennille Power
Lay Leader	Dan Newman
Director of Christian Education/Youth	Kira Cimino Holchin
Music Director/Organist	Susan Shick
Church Office Administrator/Bookkeeper	Sara Chapman
Sound/Video	Scott Holchin
Lector	Diana Leitch
Ushers	Kirk Sullenberger & Jeff Zullo

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:** Join us after worship in the parlor for a celebration gathering for Kira with food and fellowship!

**Monday, Dec. 1, 2025 – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

6:00pm – Church Council

**Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025**

6:00pm – Dinner & Advent Devotions

**Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025**

6:30pm – Pastor's Advent Study via zoom

7-9:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Friday, Dec. 5, 2025**

9:45am – Al-Anon

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025**

9:30am Cleveland Kids' Book Bank Mission Opportunity

10:00am – A.A.

4-7:30pm – American Cancer Society Christmas Gathering

**Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent**

8:30-9:00am – Early Morning Service; Communion

9:30am – Worship & Live Streamed; Communion & Choir singing

2-3:30pm – A.A. Book Club