



December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent



Rockport United Methodist Church

3301 Wooster Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116

Church Phone: 440-331-9433

Church Email: office@rockportumc.org

Pastor Tennille email: pastorrockportUMC@gmail.com

Pastor Tennille Phone: 773-440-3109

Website: www.rockportumc.org



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

December 7, 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.)

CHORAL PRELUDE *"Christmas Communion Song"* Ray & Calloway

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING-The Candle of Peace Jim & Dan

READER 1: Last week we lit the Candle of Hope, remembering that God disrupts despair with promise.

READER 2: Today we light the Candle of Peace, remembering Joseph, a man who found peace not in clarity, but in trust.

READER 1: Isaiah reminds us that God brings comfort to the weary and shapes a path through every wilderness.

READER 2: Joseph shows us that peace comes when we embrace the plans of God over the plans we made for ourselves.

ALL: ***As we light this candle, we seek the peace that steadies us, guides us, and carries us through uncertainty.***

(Light the first and second candles.)

READER 1: Prince of Peace, dwell within us.

READER 2: Prepare our hearts for your coming.

ALL: ***Amen.***

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: In this season of Advent, God calls us to prepare the way of the Lord.

PEOPLE: ***We come seeking the peace that speaks comfort to our weary souls.***

LEADER: Isaiah declares that every valley shall be lifted, every mountain made low—God is reshaping the landscape of our lives.

PEOPLE: ***We open our hearts to the One who levels fear, steadies chaos, and restores hope.***

LEADER: Like Joseph, we stand at the place where peace disrupts our plans and calls us into trust, courage, and obedience.

PEOPLE: ***May God's peace guide our steps and calm our spirits.***

ALL: ***Come, Lord Jesus. Prepare your way in us, through us, and among us. Amen.***

***HYMN**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH 230

* UNISON PRAYER

God of peace and promise, You speak comfort to your people and call us to prepare our hearts for your coming. In Joseph's quiet faithfulness and Isaiah's bold proclamation, show us the peace that is found in trust, surrender, and obedience. Smooth the rough places within us, lift the valleys of our doubts, and level the mountains of our fear. Make us ready to receive your peace and to carry it into a world longing for your presence. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSVUE

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25 NRSVUE

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

"Alleluia for Advent"

Old English carol

Flute: Mickey Hopp

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 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* UMH 238

SERMON "A Season of Holy Disruption:
Disrupted by Peace" Pastor Tennille

COMMUNION See screens

When directed by the ushers, please come forward by the center isle to receive communion by intinction. The altar rails are always available for prayer.

Return to your seat by the outside isle. Individual cups also available up front.

***HYMN** *"What Child is This"* UMH 219

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** See screens

*Please stand as you are able

SERVING THE LORD AT ROCKPORT

Pastor	Pastor Tennille Power
Lay Leader	Dan Newman
Music Director/Organist	Susan Shick
Church Office Administrator/Bookkeeper	Sara Chapman
Sound/Video	Scott Holchin
Lector	Jim Spallino
Ushers	Eileen Seppelt & Beverly Cavanah

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK: Join us after worship in the parlor for fellowship and coffee hour

Monday, Dec. 8, 2025

7:00pm – Trustees

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025

6-7:20pm – Choir practice

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025

6:00pm – Book Club Christmas Gathering at Ellen's house

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025

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

Friday, Dec. 12, 2025

9:45am – Al-Anon

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025

10:00am – A.A.

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025

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

9:30am – Worship & Live Streamed

2-3:30pm – A.A. Book Club

4:00pm – Young Life Christmas Benefit Concert