North Liberty First
A United Methodist Community of Faith

First Sunday of Advent
November 8, 2026

Whether you are joining us in person or on-line,
know that we are here to journey along with you as we live into our mission: to follow and invite others to follow Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Remembering our Baptism

Advent Wreath Lighting

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches-- and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.

Unison Prayer

Eternal God, your Word of wisdom goes forth and does not return empty: Grant us such knowledge and love of you that we may perceive your presence in all creation and every creature; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Verse 1) UMH 206

***Call to Worship**

What will set us journeying in search of the Christ this Advent?

How far are we prepared to go out of our way to look for the signs of His coming, and to prepare a path?

How will we travel through this season? Will we be burdened by responsibilities and tasks, loaded with others' expectations, overwhelmed by their needs?

Will we be full of joy or weary of grief?

What will guide our steps in these weeks?

Will we follow a thread of longing, the hint of an alternative pathway, the words and music of the gathered community?

Sisters and brothers in Christ, Advent awaits us.

Let us place our feet on the road and begin our journey.

***Hymn O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (V 1, 4, 5, 6) UMH 57**

***Hymn Blessed Assurance UMH 369**

First Lesson Amos 5:18-24

Word for Children

Second Lesson Matthew 25:1-13

Message for the Lord's Day Reverend Deborah Coble

***Response to the Word Gloria Patri UMH 70**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the
Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.

***Hymn The Summons TFWS 2130**

Prayers of the People

After each petition is shared, we pause for silent prayer, then the pastor will say: Lord in Your Mercy. The congregation responds: **Hear our Prayers.**

Together, let us pray for
the people of this congregation...
for those who are suffering...
for the concerns of our local community…
for those who don't know where their next meal
will come from and those who are looking for shelter …
for our troops, police, EMTs, firefighters,
and others in harm's way…
for the world, its people and its leaders…
for the earth you have given to our care…
for the Church universal; its leaders, its members,
and its mission…
for peace and goodwill to all…
in communion with the saints.

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.

Mission and Ministry Moment: Lyle Muller – Iowa City Circuit

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of endless grace, we thank you for every good and perfect gift you give us. You provide for our needs and show us deep love.

Bless these tithes and offerings we give today. Use them to bring hope to the broken, justice to the weary, and light to our community. With grateful hearts, we also offer our very lives to you. Shape us, guide us, and send us out to be signs of your love in the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light UMH 206**

***Benediction**

Life is short and we have too little time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind,

and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.
Amen.

Postlude