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 **Christ Be Our Light** **Upper Room #114**

Advent 1 Candle 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.

Let us pray: 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.

Song **O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Verse 1)**

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Remembering our Baptism

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.

***Song** **Let Justice Roll**

***Song** **Your Grace is Enough**

First Lesson **Amos 5:18-24**

***Song** **Open the Eyes of My Heart**

Word for Children

Special Music **Even So Come**

Second Lesson **Matthew 25:1-13**

Message for the Lord's Day **Reverend Deborah Coble**

Mission and Ministry Moment: Lyle Muller – Iowa City Circuit

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.

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Song **God of This City**

***Doxology**

Blessed be God. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be His kingdom now and forever.
Amen, Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Song** **Let Justice Roll**

***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 **Holy is the Lord**