

**WONDER**  
(mobile liturgy)  
**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**December 5, 2021**

**Sabbath**

1. Sabbath breaks our normal routines inviting us to wait on the Spirit.
2. Sabbath frames the time and place where we are as sacred moments and holy ground.
3. Sabbath sits with our inner noises so as to silence or attend to them.
4. Sabbath opens the Scriptures, trusts the Spirit, and dwells in community.
5. Sabbath abides in the prayers, prose, and poetry of our common faith.
6. Sabbath offers our soul, body, and mind to God. Sabbath is not consumptive.
7. Sabbath sends us out into the world to build God's kin-dom!

**GATHERING**

Come and center yourself in worship by praying:

**God of Advent hope, we come to this place seeking your peace.**

**May it be so. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Take a moment to acknowledge God's presence in the space around you. Frame your space for worship. Light a candle, take a deep breath, make an impromptu altar! After claiming the space around you for worship, we invite you to pray:

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

**How will we travel through this season?**

**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?**

**Siblings in Christ, Advent calls us.**

**Let us place our feet on the road and continue the journey.**

**May we find in familiar words, rituals, and customs the birth of the new thing that awaits us.'**

**PASSING THE PEACE**     Know that the peace of Christ is with you wherever you are.

Music engages our minds, hearts, and bodies in ways of worship that words alone might not. Sing where you are, join our livestream, or sing along with another song of praise.

**ANTHEM**

*As the Dark Awaits the Dawn*

Christopher Aspaas

As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light.

O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, till shades of fear are gone.

As the blue expectant hour before the silv'ring skies,  
we long to see your day arise, whole and wise, o lucent Morning Star.

As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease,  
may we your healing light release, living peace, unto your holy dawn.

Shine your future on this place, enlighten ev'ry guest,  
that through us stream your holiness, bright and blest, come dawn, o Sun of grace.

We await your light.

**SCRIPTURE**

Malachi 3:1-10

Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me; suddenly the LORD whom you are seeking will come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming, says the

LORD of heavenly forces. Who can endure the day of his coming? Who can withstand his appearance? He is like the refiner's fire or the cleaner's soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. They will belong to the LORD, presenting a righteous offering. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in ancient days and in former years. I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against the sorcerers, the adulterers, those swearing falsely, against those who cheat the day laborers out of their wages as well as oppress the widow and the orphan, and against those who brush aside the foreigner and do not revere me, says the LORD of heavenly forces. I am the LORD, and I do not change; and you, children of Jacob, have not perished. Ever since the time of your ancestors, you have deviated from my laws and have not kept them. Return to me and I will return to you, says the LORD of heavenly forces. But you say, "How should we return?" Should a person deceive God? Yet you deceive me. But you say, "How have we deceived you?" With your tenth-part gifts and offerings. You are being cursed with a curse, and you, the entire nation, are robbing me. Bring the whole tenth-part to the storage house so there might be food in my house.

**This is the word of God for the people of God.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

- Join the [live stream](#) on [Facebook](#).
- Download an audio recording of the sermon at [belmontumc.org/worship/past-sunday-sermons](http://belmontumc.org/worship/past-sunday-sermons)
- Download a draft of the sermon manuscript at [belmontumc.org/worship/past-sunday-sermons](http://belmontumc.org/worship/past-sunday-sermons)

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

- What joys or heartaches do you need to lift to God?
- What is God calling you to do?

(You can let us know of particular prayer concerns or joys by emailing [contactus@belmontumc.org](mailto:contactus@belmontumc.org))

Let us join with Christians across the world praying the prayer Jesus taught us:

**Our Father (Creator, Mother, Holy Parent, Holy One),  
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.**

### **OFFERING**

The offering of ourselves to God and one another is an essential part of any worship service. We respond to God's generous grace by giving ourselves to God's kin-dom on earth as in heaven. You can give by mailing a check to the church (Box 120098, Nashville, 37212), giving online at [belmontumc.org/give](http://belmontumc.org/give), or by texting BELMONT to 73256.

The offering reminds us that we give ourselves to God. How will you give yourself to God's kin-dom this week?

### **BENEDICTION**

**We thank you, God of Mystery, for sacred meal, community.**

**Send us forth now to share your light, Disciples of the One of Peace!**

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**