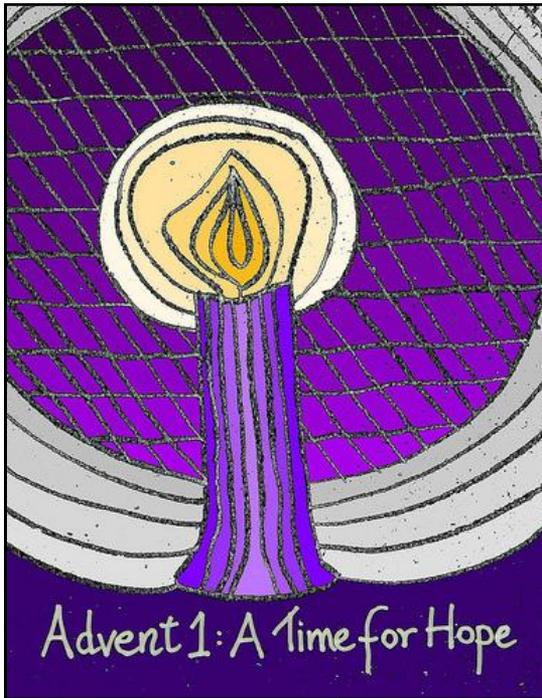


Cahaba Heights

United Methodist Church

December 2, 2012
First Sunday in Advent
Service of Hope



3139 Cahaba Heights Road
Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35243
205-967-0470

www.CahabaHeightsUMC.org

Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church

Service of Hope

December 2, 2012

WELCOME

Rev. Johnson

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION

Dr. Dismukes

OPENING PRAYER

God of love and understanding, we gather here to confront our pain in the midst of the world's celebration. Look upon our sorrowing hearts and be gracious to us. Grant us a taste of the hope, peace, joy and love that you promise to all of your people through the gift of your son Jesus. Amen.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Rev. Glasgow

Representatives for each name listed in your insert should prepare to come forward.

WORDS OF HEARTBREAK

Psalm 6:3-4

Michelle Blue

Psalm 25:16-18

Psalm 22:1-2, 14

*FIRST HYMN

Not So in Haste, My Heart

UMH 455

LITANY FOR HELP

Michelle Blue

Leader: In the midst of the crowds we feel loneliness. In the midst of all this joy, despair creeps in.

All: Can you see us, Lord, can you hear us?

Leader: Others shout, "Be of good cheer!" but we do not know how to cheer ourselves.

All: Can you see us, Lord, can you hear us?

Leader: Others celebrate abundant blessings, but we cannot ignore this vacancy: something is missing now.

All: Can you see us, Lord, can you hear us?

Leader: If we cannot feel joy give us peace. If we can't muster cheer give us comfort.

All: Come, Emmanuel. Deliver us. Be our hope in the longest nights.

WORDS OF PROMISE

Romans 8:26-28

Rev. Johnson

MEDITATION

Rev. Johnson

SECOND HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Johnson

All merciful, tender God, you give life and peace.

We come before you as your children.

We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom.

We are broken and hurting; we need your love and healing.

We are lonely and afraid; we need your presence and assurance.

We are selfish and sinful; we need your forgiveness.

Come to us, Emmanuel. Grant us your peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 12

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Rev. Glasgow

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have made yourself known to us. Grant that we may go into the world in your strength, carrying with us the knowledge that you have not forgotten us, but have heard our prayers and have sent your peace into the world through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

WORDS OF HOPE

Psalm 34:17-18

Michelle Blue

Psalm 46:1-2

Psalm 147:3,5

ACTS OF HOPE AND REMEMBRANCE

Rev. Glasgow

*CLOSING HYMN

Away in a Manger

UMH 217

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Johnson

*Please stand as you are able.

Holy Communion in The United Methodist Church

In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You do not have to be a member of this or any church. We believe that this table is the Lord's and that anyone who wants to feel God's presence more and seeks to live in peace with his or her neighbor is eligible for Communion. This includes all children. If you are unable to come forward for Communion, please alert a host and we will bring the elements to you.

Blessing for the Longest Night

All throughout these months
as the shadows
have lengthened,
this blessing has been
gathering itself,
making ready,
preparing for
this night.

It has practiced
walking in the dark,
traveling with
its eyes closed,
feeling its way
by memory
by touch
by the pull of the moon
even as it wanes.

So believe me
when I tell you
this blessing will
reach you
even if you
have not light enough
to read it;
it will find you
even though you cannot
see it coming.

You will know
the moment of its
arriving
by your release
of the breath
you have held
so long;

a loosening
of the clenching
in your hands,
of the clutch
around your heart;
a thinning
of the darkness
that had drawn itself
around you.

This blessing
does not mean
to take the night away
but it knows
its hidden roads,
knows the resting spots
along the path,
knows what it means
to travel
in the company
of a friend.

So when
this blessing comes,
take its hand.
Get up.
Set out on the road
you cannot see.

This is the night
when you can trust
that any direction
you go,
you will be walking
toward the dawn.