

MESSAGE

Rev. Shon

Compassion & Generosity: Fruits Worthy of Repentance

Affirmation of Faith (Luke 1:68-79)

Bless the Lord our God, who has come to rescue his people. God has raised up a savior for us from the line of David, just as the prophets said.

God brings salvation from our enemies and delivers us from all those who hate us.

God shows us mercy and remembers the covenant with Abraham, just as he promised our ancestors.

God rescues us so that we can serve the Lord without fear, with holiness and righteousness as long as we live.

We hear the words of the prophets who go before God and call on us to prepare the way for the Lord.

We repent of our sins and seek God's forgiveness, and we proclaim God's salvation to the world.

Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven breaks upon us,

God brings light to us and to all who dwell in darkness to guide us on the path of peace.

THANKSGIVING & SENDING FORTH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With rejoicing and patience, we not only wait for the coming of God's kingdom, we work to make God's kingdom known.

May the gifts we offer today reflect our trust in God, who promises and gives us more than we can even imagine.

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Shon

*CLOSING HYMN

UMH #227


The Friendly Beasts

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Shon

POSTLUDE

Carol Prindle



Dinner Church
There will be no Dinner Church
on
December 24th or 31st




Advent is a season of waiting and preparation, where we make our hearts and minds ready to celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas and receive him anew in our lives and communities.

Worship Sundays 9am

Bible Study Sundays 10:15am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4pm

This week's WWIS radio broadcast is sponsored by Esther Shon, in loving memory of her father and in heartfelt appreciation for the support she received from the congregation

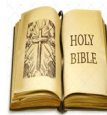


365 Days Bible Reading Plan

Week 47: Revelation & Proverbs 29-31

Memory Verse Week 47: Revelation 21:3-4

"I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."




Share the Love!

Give a Christmas gift to Dinner Church or Friends Sharing Food.

Pick up an envelope from the Giving Tree.

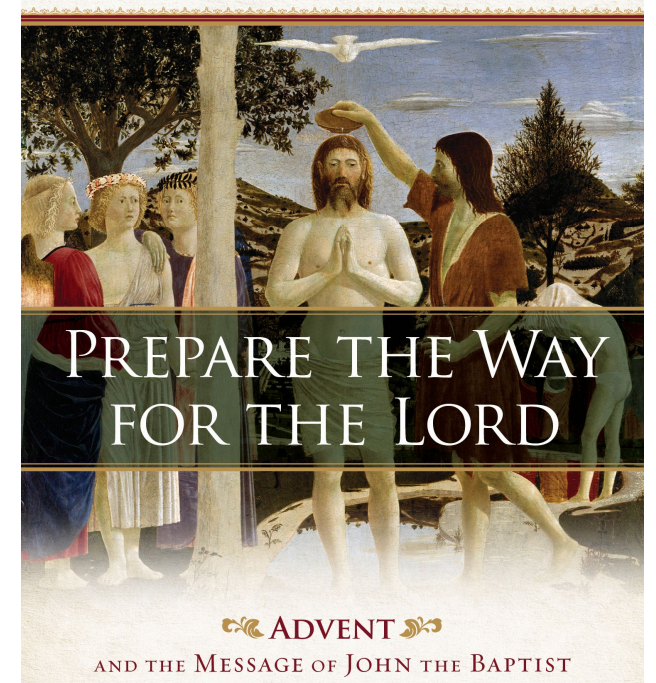
Make checks payable to BRF UMC (memo: Dinner Church or Friends Sharing Food). Return envelopes to the offering plate or church office by Dec. 28.

Sponsored by the Mission Outreach Committee.



Ushers: Dave & Sherry Olson
Fellowship: Judy Sheppard

Black River Falls United Methodist Church



UMC Mission Statement:

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Pastor: Rev. Inwha Shon

Pianist: Carol Prindle

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

** Indicates, please stand if able.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025 9 AM
Liturgist: Jim Bible

PRELUDE Carol Prindle

INVITATION AND GATHERING

*CALL to WORSHIP

L: A righteous branch will grow up from the stump of Jesse.

P: He will carry the Spirit of the Lord, a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

L: He will bring righteousness and the fear of the Lord.

P: He will bring peace and justice.

L: The wolf and the lamb will live together,

P: The lion and the calf will live together, and a little child will lead them.

L: They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on God's holy mountain.

*OPENING PRAYER (Isaiah 11, Romans 15, Matthew 3)

In this season of love, hope and family, grant us joy and peace this day. You offered signs to Joseph and Mary long ago—signs that their son would be the Messiah, Emmanuel. May your light shine on us here, that we might understand the signs in our lives. We come with open hearts and minds to hear of your love coming into the world. We come to hear of a young woman with child, a foster father with trust in God, a match you made in heaven to shepherd a tiny boy to his destiny. Holy God, show us your peace as we make ready for your light in the world! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The Candle of Peace

The Son of God comes to us as the Prince of Peace. He sends his messenger to prepare the way. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace. We eagerly await the day when violence and greed come to an end, when God's spirit brings down the powerful and lifts up the lowly. We pursue compassion and kindness, turning to God. We seek to be a people prepared for the Lord.

* OPENING HYMN

UMH #250

Once in David's Royal City

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas.

It's only two days away and we still have so much to do. Our preparations are far from complete, and we are exhausted. We wish this whole thing were over so that we could rest. Forgive our shortcomings and our short-sightedness. You have poured upon us blessing after blessing, daily reminding us of your love and presence; yet we have chosen to jump onto this "greased slide" into Christmas. Give us patience. Slow us down. Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us--not in the wrapped packages, the abundance of food, but in the love and compassion that is brought to all. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child. AMEN.

WORDS of ASSURANCE

The light of God's love shines upon each of us in the gift of God's love, Jesus Christ. This is given for you. Rejoice! You are loved by God, now and forever. AMEN.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*In Unison*)

*HYMN

UMH #207

Prepare the Way of the Lord (3x)

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

God, you have sent a voice crying out in the wilderness to prepare your way. Make us ready now to hear your voice and receive your word in scripture. Open our hearts, teach us, guide us, lead us to repentance, and prepare us for your coming. Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:7-14

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

¹³ "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

Mark 6:14-29

¹⁴ King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!" ¹⁷ For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, ²⁰ because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

²¹ Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²² When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." ²³ And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." ²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. ²⁵ At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶ The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. ²⁹ On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

*HYMN

TFWS #2095

Star Child