

## **Because FUMC was closed due to extremely dangerous weather, we are sharing the following:**

**I have printed the Scripture below that we would have reflected on.** Sunday morning please take time to read it, talk about it, and spend time in prayer. I have also included the lighting of the first Advent Candle. Remember to start your Advent Giving Basket and the prayers. If you don't have the sheet of instructions or the basket yet, just stop by church this week and we will get you set up to share love with people at the foodshelf and shelter.

### **SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:5-22**

One: In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Many: Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

One: When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Many: Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

One: The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Many: Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak.

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - First Sunday in Advent - The candle of HOPE**

Voice: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of HOPE.

Voice: Our hope is in God, and in God's son Jesus Christ. He is the One through whom God has promised to save and redeem us.

Voice: We light this candle today to remind us that Jesus Christ is our hope and the hope of the world. We thank God for the light Jesus brought into the world.

### ***Light one candle***

Voice: Let us sing together our Advent song of hope. It is sung to the tune of "Away In A Manger."

A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
A Candle of HOPE in the winter's dark night.  
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky  
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.  
(sung to the tune of "Away In The Manger")

**On the journey with you,**  
~Pastor Jeanine

