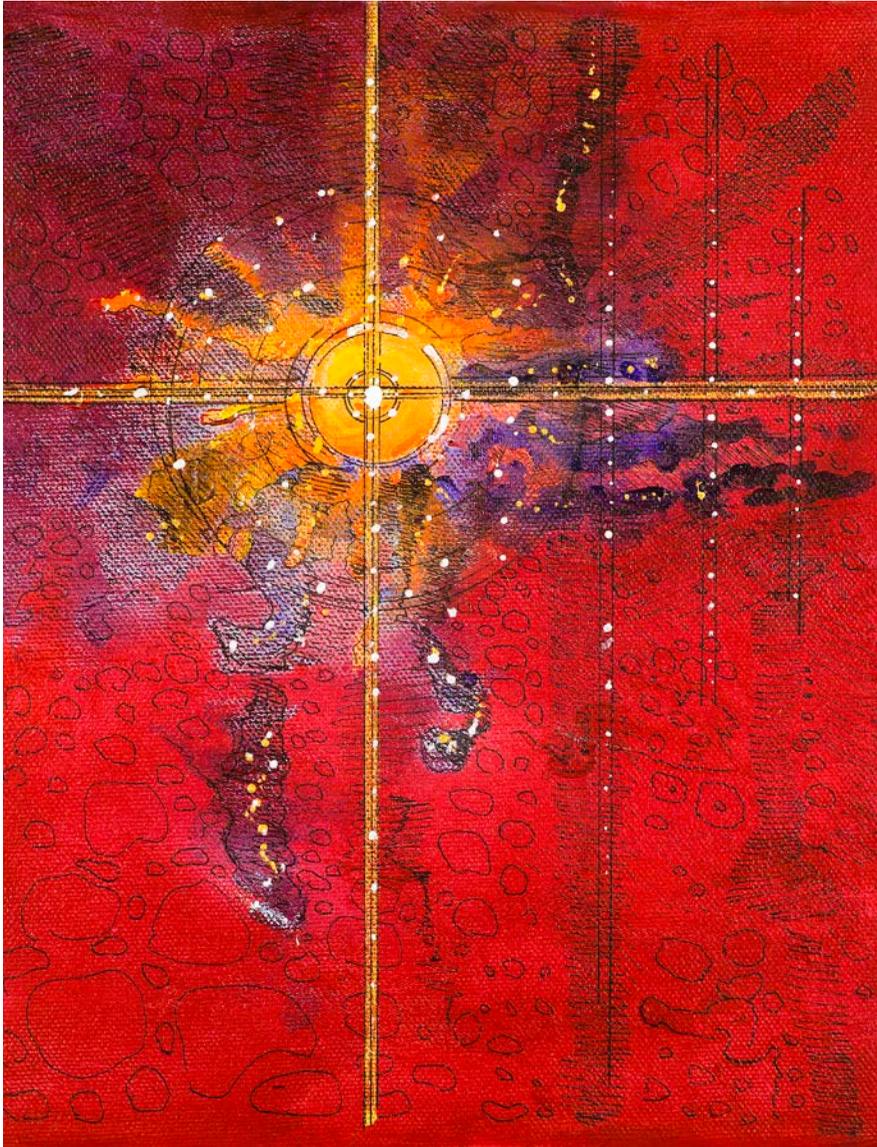


The King Is Coming, The King Is Coming

November 28, 2021



ARE YOU NEW TO KNOX? WELCOME!



Prayer

If you would like someone to pray with you, pastors will be available at the front of the Worship Center after the service.



Communion

We celebrate Communion weekly. If you are a baptized follower of Christ, we invite you to join us.



New at Knox or ready to get better connected?

If you have questions, please contact the Knox Office (734.761.5669) or fill out a CONNECT CARD, found in the pews. We'd like to hear from you! If you would like to make meaningful connections with others at Knox, please contact our Ministry Director, Kathy Brace, at kbrace@knoxannarbor.org or 734.761.5669, ext. 222 to learn about ministries for all age groups and ways to serve. To stay up to date with what's happening at Knox, request the weekly email using this QR code.



Childcare

Care is available during the service for children birth to 3 years of age. Our Early Childhood Wing is located on the same level as the Worship Center. We welcome your children!

PLEASE NOTE: Children in PreK to 2nd grade attending Children's Worship will be dismissed after the Pastoral Prayer to join a volunteer at the rear of the sanctuary. Stickers are located in the pews. Before sending your child, please fill out the sticker, placing the large tag on your child's back and keeping the small portion to show at pickup. You will be asked to show an ID if you lose your half of the ticket. If it's your child's first time to go to Children's Worship, please accompany him or her down the stairs to the Gathering Place room to complete check-in. If you are not attending the CE hour, **please pick up your child from the PreK/K classroom on the lower level..**

- FOR REFLECTION -

Advent Prayer

*"In our secret yearnings
we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair
we doubt that you will.
And in this privileged place
we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we
and by those who despair more deeply than do we.
Look upon your church and its pastors
in this season of hope
which runs so quickly to fatigue
and in this season of yearning
which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
Give us the grace and the impatience
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,
to the edges of our fingertips.
We do not want our several worlds to end.
Come in your power
and come in your weakness
in any case
and make all things new.
Amen."*

- Walter Brueggemann



∞ ORDER OF WORSHIP ∞

– GOD GATHERS –

Prelude *(You are invited to pray and reflect silently.)*

Welcome

Call to Worship *Isaiah 40*

Lighting of Advent Candle

Hymn of Praise *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

***Prayer of Praise**

***Songs of Praise** *10,000 Reasons
Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

– GOD RENEWS –

Confession of Sin

Assurance of Grace *Zephaniah 3:14-17*

Pastoral Prayer

*** Children dismissed to Children's Worship ***

Hymn of Preparation *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

– GOD FEEDS –

Scripture Reading *Matthew 24:36-51*

Sermon *The King's Surprise*

Approaching the Table *Beautiful Mystery*

The Lord's Supper

***Song** *Jesus Messiah*

– GOD SENDS –

***Benediction**

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THE KING'S SURPRISE

Matthew 24:36-51

Next week: Matthew 25:1-13

- GOING DEEPER -

Today we enter a time of waiting. Advent. We are waiting for the coming of the King.

- ▶ The bumper sticker says, "Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty." Is that how U of M manages its multi-billion-dollar endowment? Randomly and senselessly? Or The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation? As a citizen of God's kingdom, how ought the stewarding of your life look more like the Gates Foundation than random kindness and acts of senseless beauty? And more importantly, why?
- ▶ Take some time to consider the big things in your life: relationships, money, time, possessions, attention and energy. Whose sign is affixed over these things? Your sign that says, "Mine" or a sign that says, "King Jesus"? How do you know? What are some things that may need to change?
- ▶ Think of being the manager of a large apartment complex. Consider all the details of managing it that must be attended to on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the owner. God, the owner of all things, has given you a piece of real estate from his new world to manage – your life which is now rooted and grounded in Christ. How might the idea of being the current manager of a piece of God's new creation deepen and expand your understanding and pursuit of the Christian life?
- ▶ How certain are you that Jesus is coming back? Are there ways that uncertainty about the Master's return take the edge off your ability to wait with a prepared eagerness that thinks, "Any time now"? What cultural themes might cast a shadow over your sense of Jesus' certain coming?



LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Bryan Gregory (sermon) • Pastor Josh Boehr (liturgy)



Family Matters

- ▶ **Service of Lament: a pathway to hope & praise** Dec. 5, 7-8 PM. Loss, pain, and unexpected or unwanted change may have taken a toll on your spirit, caused you grief, or revealed sin in your life. Through this service, you may experience God's comforting presence, hear his voice of peace and hope, and be strengthened for the future.
- ▶ Come to our **Nativity Petting Zoo** under the canopy on the upper level on Friday, Dec. 10, 6-8 PM. Mark your calendars now for a chance to get up close and personal with the Christmas story. We now have goats and a camel lined up!



Community / Ways to Connect

- ▶ The recipient of this year's special **Thanksgiving offering** will be **Safe Families for Children**. SFFC (website: safe-families.org) is a family preservation movement motivated by radical hospitality, disruptive generosity, and intentional compassion to keep children safe and families together facing crisis. They bring church and community together, mobilizing an army of volunteers to advocate for vulnerable children and socially isolated families. Donations may be made via the Knox website or app, or using special giving envelopes (available by the offering boxes or at the Welcome Center).
- ▶ **Tree of Hope** As the holidays approach, our ministry partners at Hope Clinic are once again looking for the Knox family to come along side them and bless the families in need in our community. Due to COVID-19, the needs are even greater and your generosity is even more necessary and appreciated.

This year Hope has changed how the Christmas program is implemented because of social distancing requirements. Instead of individual gifts, Hope is requesting that we donate funds directly to Hope. For details, visit the Knox website (News & Updates > Tree of Hope) or the display table in the atrium. Please **donate by December 12th**.

- ▶ **C3Women's Advent Gathering** (7 PM on Thurs., Dec. 16) *When they said, "Let's go to the house of GOD," my heart leaped for joy!* (Psalm 122:1) After two long years, C3W joyously invites you to an evening of Advent worship as we stream Andrew Peterson's "Behold the Lamb of God" Christmas concert. Bring a friend and join us for an evening of rich worship, warm fellowship, festive desserts by Angel Food Catering and fun holiday crafts. Visit the Knox website to register (News & Updates > C3Women's Advent Celebration) or sign up in the atrium. \$10 registration.



In Essentials, Unity. In Non-essentials, Liberty.
In All Things, Charity.



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and access other helpful information about our church.*

Scan with your camera or a QR reader to download the Knox app.

2065 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734.761.5669 // knoxannarbor.org