

Part of a blog post this week from one of the Advent

I'm worried that people are being guilted into Advent Conspiracy. The last thing we want is for people to feel like they can't shop because their church or family member or friend told them it's not the [AC] way. Because that's not true. So what is the [AC] way? Simply this: We want to encourage people to do Christmas differently by worshiping Jesus first before anything else. We want to push back on hyper-consumerism. Notice the word "hyper". We're not saying you shouldn't buy a gift, we're merely suggesting you don't gorge yourself on gifts or buy stuff out of obligation. [Gifting can be] a beautiful thing. Some will opt out of buying gifts and make something for their loved ones, and that's a beautiful thing. Others will buy things from organizations like Trade as One, and that's a beautiful thing. Some shopped on Black Friday because they really want to honor their finances by saving money on gifts, and that's a smart thing. Here's what's not a beautiful thing: Getting all bent out of shape and stressed out because someone said "we" don't want you to buy gifts. Kind of a silly thing, especially since one of [AC]'s intentions is to help people relax and enjoy the season. The point is, make it personal by making it about Jesus first. The rest is just details.

Read the whole post

http://www.adventconspiracy.org/blog/want_to_really_do_advent_conspiracy_go_shopping/

8:00 am – Worship and Communion
in the Chapel
9:00 am – Worship in the Sanctuary
11:00 am – Emergent Worship in the
Education Conference Center
6:15 pm Wednesday Worship
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To Live, Love and Serve as Jesus Teaches
An inclusive church where all are welcome!

December 6, 2009

11:00 am

Today at Emergent Worship

Gather:

Gathering Music

Welcome, Centering

Praising

Sharing our Joys, Concerns, Offerings, and Prayers

Encounter God's Word:

Word: Malachi 3:1-4; Advent Conspiracy video

Message: "Fuller's Soap Anyone?"

Pastor Amanda Larsen

Responding:

Sacrament of Communion

ReEntering:

Praising

Blessing

Closing Music

Welcome to Emergent Worship

Emergent worship comes from within the community. The origin of the word liturgy is λειτουργία (leitourgia in ancient Greek), “work of the people.” Emergent worship is liturgy. Members of our community provide some of the ideas for this service.

Each service has several elements that do not change from week to week. We take time to center ourselves and we take time to reenter the world. Other parts of the service change each week, especially how we connect to God’s words and the music we use to praise God.

The Advent Conspiracy – The story of Christ’s birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And when it’s all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of Christmas? What if Christmas became a world-changing event again? Welcome to the Advent Conspiracy. (Learn more at www.adventconspiracy.org)

Children are invited to sit in the front (near the action!). We do have nursery care for children through age three. However, we encourage children to worship with us. When they cry, or giggle, or shout “ba!” they remind us to praise God in all things. Quiet toys are available outside the sanctuary in worship bags. Coloring supplies

are in the “loft.” Our Children have created a behavior covenant that they live into together.

Centering Breath One of the Hebrew words for Spirit is ru’ah, which is also translated as breath. Our centering breath ritual enhances our participation, sets our intention, and focuses our thoughts. This helps us to be fully present for anything, including worship.

Music for this service today is offered by Merri Bremer, Jane Drennan, Ric Owen, and the Voices in Praise choir. If you are interested in being a part of music for this worship service, please speak to Pastor Amanda.

Offering We take an offering in gratitude to God for what God is doing in our lives.

Encountering the Word of God is the central portion of this service. We encounter God’s words in many ways and in many places throughout the week. It is at this point in worship we are especially attentive to listening to God’s words for us.

ReEntering We take time at the end of the service to ReEnter the world of our daily lives. On a good day we leave as changed people. We share a blessing with one another to transition into a time of Christian fellowship.

If you are interested in being a part of the planning for the service (no meetings required!) or have comments about this service, please contact Pastor Amanda at amanda@cumethodist.com, or 289.4019, x 111.