

We are happy to have you here!

We are glad you chose to come to Rutland United Methodist Church to worship this morning. Please join us after the service for a time of fellowship.

The Lectionary is a group of four verses that Christians all over the world read each week. Here are this week's Lectionary readings: Isaiah 2:1-5 ~ Psalm 122 ~ Romans 13:11-14 ~ Matthew 24:36-44

On Thursday, **December 4 at 1 pm** – we will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.

Wednesday, December 17 at 7 pm: Bells of Joy Christmas Concert at St. Bridget Church, 28 Church Street, West Rutland.

Our Christmas Cookie Exchange will take place after worship on Sunday **December 21**. We will be packing cookie tins then. Anyone wishing to bake and donate cookies or deliver a tin of cookies can contact Irene Goebel or Barb Flint.

Donations to Rutland Neighbors and volunteers are greatly appreciated, and can be put in the collection plate.

Bible Study. Bible Study is held on Wednesdays at 7 pm via Zoom. Contact the office or Pastor Tom for the link.

Tithes and offerings on November 23, 2025: **\$840.00**

To donate to RUMC online, scan this code with your phone:



RUTLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 30, 2025
The First Sunday in Advent



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tom Atkins

60 Strongs Avenue ~ Rutland, Vermont 05701
Office: 802.773.2460 ~ Email: rutlandumc@aol.com
Website: rutlandumc.com
Pastor Atkins ~ 802.645.0499 ~ tom@quarryhouse.us

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

OPENING MUSIC *Light the Advent Candle*
TFWS 2090 (Verse 1)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (Call to Worship)

Leader: We come to worship in the midst of turmoil and uncertainty.

All: We come to worship in hope and longing.

Leader: Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah: In days to come, the Lord's house will be established in the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills.

All: We come in anticipation and hope of the Lord's coming anew in our hearts.

Leader: And so it is that we light the first Advent Candle, the candle of hope.

All: Prepare our hearts! Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Come Emmanuel*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we come to you, seeking your word. Fill us Lord. Help us hear with our ears and our hearts, that we may rejoice, and in rejoicing share your love in word and deed.

HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UMH 213

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-5

SERMON It Began in Rome

HYMN *All Earth is Waiting* UMH 210

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ever-watchful God, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. Awaken us, Lord, to the "someday" you are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait - and work - for your future to break into our present. In the name of the one who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Bethlehem Calls: An Advent Reflection*

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* UMH 196

BENEDICTION *Until Jesus Comes* W&S 3050

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Prelude Duet: **Ann Reed and Sharon Teer**

Music Director: **Ann Reed**

Joy Choir Accompanist: **Ellen Wener**

Sunday School Coordinator: **Judy Blair**

Bells of Joy Director: **Karen James**

Videographer: **Carol Wright**

Ushers: **Craig Cota, Carl Wener,**

Jim Flint, Paul Dunbar