



[FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH](#)

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DECEMBER 15, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(The congregation will please stand as able
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

Prelude *The Holly and the Ivy* Arr. for handbells by Kevin McChesney
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*CALL TO WORSHIP (***)

God comes!

So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

We will sing a song of Advent

to the One who fills our lives with joy.

God comes!

So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

We will sing a song of Advent,

to the One who hears our words and silence.

God comes!

So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

We will sing a song of Advent

to the One who graces us

with a peace we cannot begin to understand.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

REFRAIN

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.

REFRAIN

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

REFRAIN

O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.

REFRAIN

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab, *The Hymnal*, © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 *The Church Pension Fund*; st. 2, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986 © 1989 *The United Methodist Publishing House*, PO Box 801, Nashville TN 37202; Reprinted and recorded with permission under OneLicense.net # A-711296.

LIGHTING OF THE *THIRD* ADVENT CANDLE ()**

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today,
Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation
and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom,
we must not forget
that God's salvation has come and is coming.

*"With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation"* (Isaiah 12:3).

With joy you will remember
that God's salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: Faced with the troubles

**and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful
presence to God and one another.**

We will not turn away

**from the pain and the hurt in our world,
and we will not stop rejoicing in God,
whose salvation fills us to overflowing
that God's love might flow through us
and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy

as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves,
our friends, our families, and our neighbors
that in sharing our vulnerable lives
we might share
in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

The Passing of the Peace of Christ

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Zephaniah 3:14-20](#) (Pg 767) **

ANTHEM Isaiah the Prophet Joy Patterson/ Arr. by Austin Lovelace

Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's earthly kingdom shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow,
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall break forth into song,
the peoples be led forth in peace;
for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the as the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,
and conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth,
and the briar and thorn tree grow wild.
Lord hasten to bring in your kingdom on earth,
when no one shall hurt or destroy;
when wisdom and justice shall reign in the land,
and your people shall go forth in Joy.

Words: Joy F. Patterson © 1983 Hymn Society, All rights reserved, Used by permission; © Selah Publishing Co. Inc. Kingston NY 12401 All Rights reserved; Music: Based on SAMANTHRA, an early American folk tune; Austin Lovelace © 1993 Selah Publishing Reprinted and recorded with permission under [OneLicense.net # A-711296](#).

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL

***HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 210**

All Earth Is Waiting / Toda la Tierra

TAULÉ

- 1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.**
- 2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,”
For his name is “God with us,” our brother shall be,
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.**
- 3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.**
- 4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,
yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.**

See next page for the text in it's original translation.

- 1. Toda la tierra espera al Salvador y el surco abierto,
la obra del Señor; es el mundo que lucha
por la libertad, reclama justicia
y busca la verdad.**

- 2. Dice el Profeta al pueblo de Israel:
“De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,”
será “Dios con nosotros,” hermano será,
con él la Esperanza al mundo volverá.**

- 3. Montes y valles habrá que preparar;
nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.**

- 4. En una Cueva Jesús apareció,
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelva de nuevo a darnos libertad.**

Words: Catalanian text by Alberto Taulé, translation by Gertrude Suppe 1987 © 1989 United Methodist Publishing House Nashville TN; Music Alberto Taulé, Harmonized by Skinner Chavez-Melo © 1988 United Methodist Publishing House; Reprinted and recorded with permission under OneLicense.net # A-711296.

For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

Gloria, Gloria

Canon

1. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 2. in ex - cél - sis De - o!

3. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 4. al - le - lú - ia, al - le - lú - ia!

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, © 1979, 1988, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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SERMON

"Prophets Dilemma"

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

There's a Spirit in the Air

192

1,7. There's a Spir - it in the air, tell - ing
2. Lose your shy - ness, find your tongue; tell the
3. When be - liev - ers break the bread, when a
4. Still the Spir - it leads the fight, see - ing
5. When a stran - ger's not a - lone, when the
6. May the Spir - it fill our praise, guide our

Chris - tians ev - ery - where: Praise the love that
world what God has done. God in Christ has
hun - gry child is fed, praise the love that
wrong and set - ting right: God in Christ has
home - less find a home, praise the love that
thoughts and change our ways: God in Christ has

Christ re - vealed, liv - ing, work - ing, in our world.
come to stay. Live to - mor - row's life to - day!
Christ re - vealed, liv - ing, work - ing, in our world.
come to stay. Live to - mor - row's life to - day!
Christ re - vealed, liv - ing, work - ing, in our world.
come to stay. Live to - mor - row's life to - day!

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1969

MUSIC: Medieval French melody; harm. by Richard Redhead, 1853

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

77.77

Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

Wait for the Lord

Ostinato Chorale

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6:33, 7:7; Taizé Community, 1984
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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Words and Music: Taizé Community, Jacques Berthier © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, Gia Publications Inc, American agent; Reprinted and recorded with permission under OneLicense.net # A-711296.

Invitation to Prayer:

Leader: "The Lord be with you "

People: "And also with you..."

[The Lord's Prayer](#)

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG *(from above)*

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

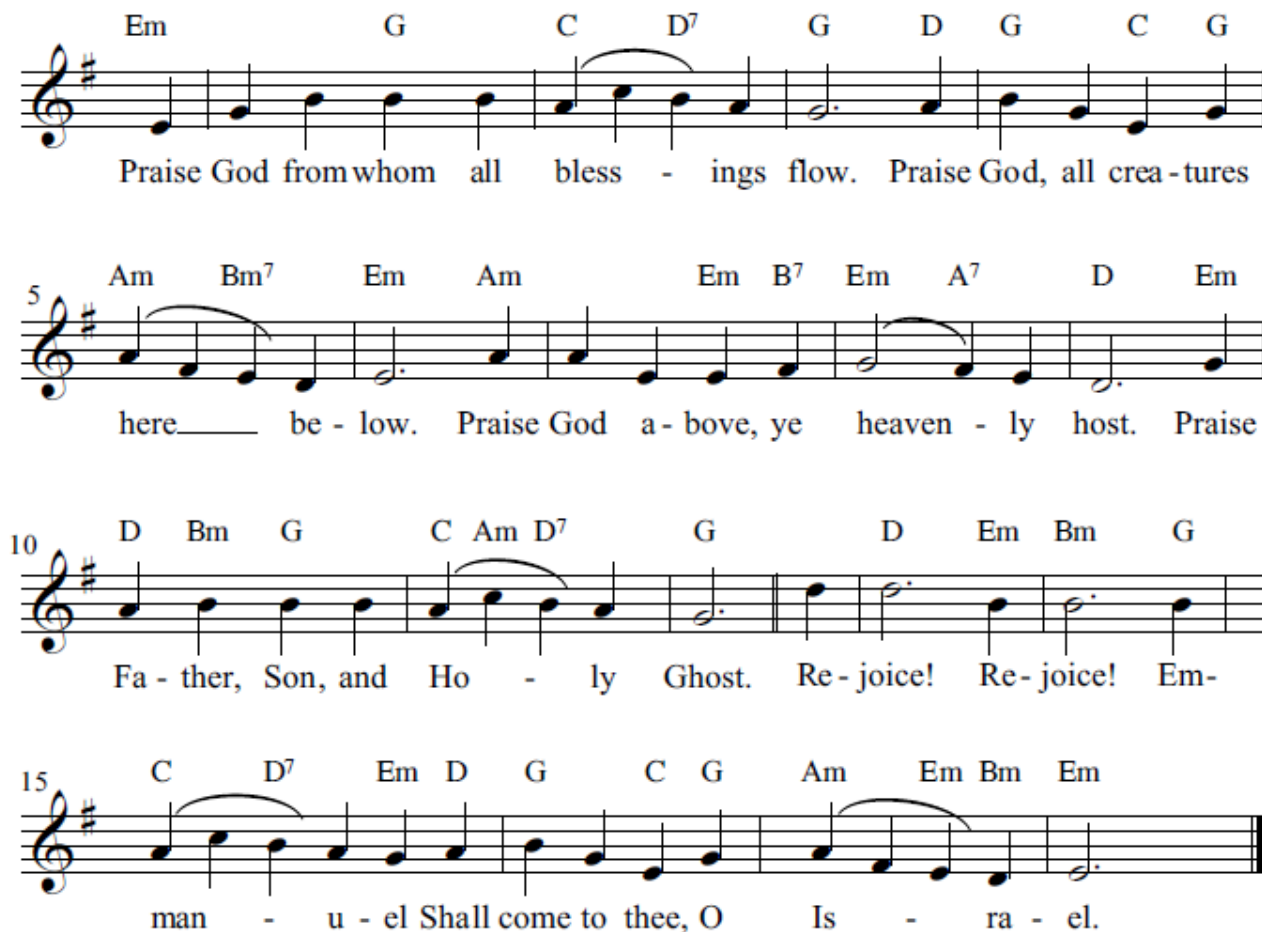
During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY

Doxology

For Advent



Em G C D7 G D G C G
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em
here_____ be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Come With Rejoicing

1. Come with re - joic - ing, cov - e - nant peo - ple:
2. Gone is the dark - ness, gone is the sor - row,
3. Join in thanks - giv - ing. Sing with the an - gels.
4. This in - vi - ta - tion comes with a warn - ing,

God's love is voic - ing hope for the earth:
end - ing all stark - ness, by the new light.
Per - fect your liv - ing. Mir - ror God's love.
an ex - pec - ta - tion: live in the Lord.

bring - ing sal - va - tion to all the peo - ple.
God is now bring - ing hope for to - mor - row.
Re - fresh your spir - it; drink from the deep wells;
With him you are sent, mis - sion is form - ing.

Your res - to - ra - tion comes in this birth.
Wel - come, with sing - ing, hea - ven's de - light.
re - ceive the Spir - it sent from a - bove.
in your com - mit - ment Christ is a - dored.

WORDS: F. Richard Garland, 2009 (Zeph. 3:14-20,
Is. 12:2-6, Phil. 4:4-7, Lk. 3:7-18)

BUNESSAN
55.54 D

MUSIC: Trad. Gaelic melody

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*Benediction

Voluntary

Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist: Cythnia Sparks

Video and Sound Engineer: Sam Tweedy

Altar Flowers: In Loving Memory of all the Loved Ones that have Passed,
Family & Friends given by Sharon Parker & her daughters.

Cover Image: Ghirlandaio, Domenico, 1449-1494. John the Baptist Preaching, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56713> [retrieved December 9, 2024]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Domenico_Ghirlandaio_-_Preaching_of_St_John_the_Baptist_\(detail\)-_WGA8865.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Domenico_Ghirlandaio_-_Preaching_of_St_John_the_Baptist_(detail)-_WGA8865.jpg). History behind the artwork, [follow this HYPERLINK](#)

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***Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at unfoldinglight.com & [Discipleship Ministries](#) online resources.

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Looking Ahead

Readings for December 22, 2024
The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Micah 5:2-5a / Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10 / Luke 1:39-45



Christmas Eve
Lessons and Carols
Candlelight Service
December 24 at 7 pm



You're invited to
Celebrate
the Birth of Jesus
at FUMC

