



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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DECEMBER 22, 2024 FOURTH 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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (***)

Glory to God in the highest!

And hope to every discouraged heart.

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to every conflicted soul.

Glory to God in the highest!

And joy to every downcast spirit.

Glory to God in the highest!

And love to everyone.

Let us sing praises to our God.

Let us offer this light to the world.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



MUSIC: Est's The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1592; harm. from Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861

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

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah... from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2).

But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O First United Methodist Church from you shall come forth for me..." What might Cod be calling forth from us?

What might God be calling forth from us?

Congregation: God invites us

to receive the promise of God's salvation

to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world.

As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS SHARED

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS -- Pg. 48 in UMH

ANTHEM <u>The Angel Gabriel</u>
Sabine Baring Gould (1834-1934/ Arr. Malcom Archer b. (1952)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail!" said he," thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee, Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold; Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said, "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.

And Christian Folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most Highly favored lady!" Gloria!

Words: Original Basque Carol paraphrased by Sabine Baring Gould (1834-1924) Public Domain © 1983 Hymn Society, All rights reserved, Used by permission; Music: Arr. Malcom Archer (b. 1952) © 2000 Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon St. Oxford UK; Reprinted and recorded with permission under OneLicense.net # A-711296.

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL

"Christmas Pageant"

The story of the first Christmas is one many are familiar with, whether they attend church regularly or only on the high holidays.

Just like we rewatch Christmas movies, such as A Christmas Story each year, we also listen to readings about the first Christmas.

Each time we hear the story it is likely we learn something new, or at least come away with a new understanding of the holiday.

This year, let's see how our cast of biblical characters can help differentiate between A Christmas Story

and the *original* Christmas story.

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

JOY TO THE WORLD



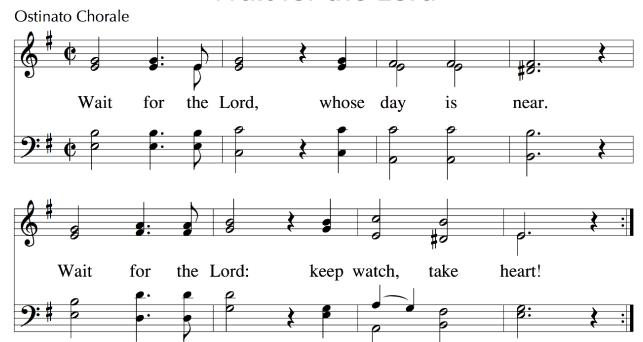
Text: CM with repeats: based on Psalm 98; Isaac Watts, 1764–1748, alt. Music: T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759; adapt. by Lowell Mason, 1792–1872, alt.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

Wait for the Lord



Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6:33, 7:7; Taizé Community, 1984 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994 © 1982, 1983, 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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Invitation to Prayer:

Leader: "The Lord be with you "
People: "And also with you..."

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer (UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG (from above)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

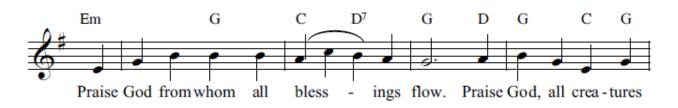
During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

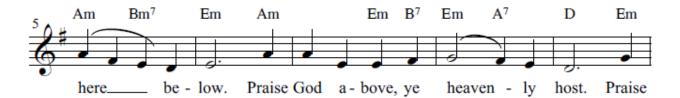
OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY

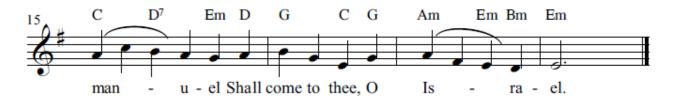
Doxology

For Advent









Words: Thomas Ken, 1674 Music: 15th Century French VENI EMMANUEL LM with Refrain

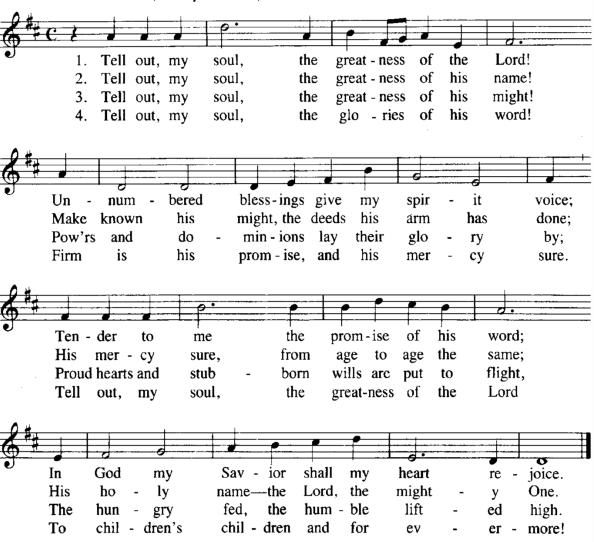
Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website http://www.umcworship.org. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

534 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord



Text: Luke 1:46-55; Magnificat anima mea; Timothy Dudley-Smith, b.1926, © 1962, Hope Publishing Co. Tune: WOODLANDS, 10 10 10; Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949, © Oxford University Press

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*Benediction

Voluntary

Assisting with Worship today:

<u>Liturgist:</u> Kenneth Downes Video and Sound Engineer: Kent Marzoli

<u>Altar Flowers:</u> In Honor of the health and well-being of the congregation given by Marcia Brown

<u>Cover Image:</u> Created by FUMC Staff

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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 29, 2024

The First Sunday After Christmas Day 1 Samuel 2:18-26 / Psalm 148

Colossians 3: 12-17 / Luke 2:41-52

