

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m. *Christmas Pageant/Lessons and Carols* December 19, 2021

** indicates "stand if you are able." UMH is the blue hymnal. TFWs is the small black book.*

INTROIT "Joy to the World" Verses 1, 2, 4 UMH #246

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS

One: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The risen Christ is with us.

All: Praise the Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

One: When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, their lives were forever changed.

All: Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and Mary proclaimed faith in God, her savior.

One: The children they carried in their wombs heralded expectation and hope for the world.

All: Let all who hunger for righteousness return home to the living God.

One: Let all who seek the Spirit shout aloud.

All: We are heirs of this expectation and hope. We are heirs of this promise of God.

One: Come! Let us worship.

And together let us pray.

All: God of joyous expectation, come to us this day. May the miracles in our lives fill us with wonder. May an encounter with your goodness and grace cause our hearts to leap within us. Receive us into the arms of your mercy, that we may feel you near us and rest secure in your many blessings. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION

Reader One: Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, the universe and everything, we need a blessing. We don't always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or someone to come along beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes. We seek a blessing.

Reader Two: For many of us, we go home; we ask mom; we talk to dad, or brothers and sisters, close friends, those we grew up with, those who know us best. We want them alongside; we want to be in their presence. Somehow, we know that being there, being home, will make all things better. Maybe it won't be fixed, or solved, or wished away, but at least we won't be alone. We seek a blessing.

Reader One: Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to Cousin Elizabeth's house, looking for someone who knew a little of what she was going through, looking for a place to hide until the reality of her condition could become something real. And she received a blessing. The prophet Micah spoke of a blessing coming to an unexpected place, an unassuming town. Yet

WISEMEN

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11 – *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ... Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.*

Hymn "The First Noel" Verses 1, 3, 4 UMH #245

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another. *(From UMH page 7)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is hard to wait patiently, O God, for the gift of your promised salvation. We long to nurture the joyous expectation that Mary and Elizabeth discovered in their greeting, but we have grown accustomed to living with disappointment. We yearn to feel our hearts leap within us as your Spirit stirs our slumbering souls, but we have allowed ourselves to find solace in lesser things. Fill us with your grace, that we may give birth to hope and joy, and that we may abide in your peace and love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Do not let your hearts be troubled. God will not fail to lift you out of complacency and fill your hearts to overflowing. Rise in joy and hope, for God's promises are sure, and Christ's salvation is at hand.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (in unison)

Just as the Magi worshipped by bringing gifts to the Christ child, we too, worship by giving of our offering, talents, and time. Offering our gifts to God is a holy act. In this sacred moment, let us offer our gifts and our lives to the holy work of God.

WEEKLY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *“Look Who Just Checked In”* *Stephen Hill/Daryl Williams*
CUMC Children & Adult Choirs

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

(Refrain)

Look who just checked in, into the barn, into the world,
into the hearts of the boys and girls.
Never been a baby quite like Him; Look who just checked in.

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

(Refrain)

O little town of Bethlehem. (Look who just checked in.)
The shepherds and the wise men. (Look who just checked in.)
Go tell it on the mountain. Jesus just checked in!

(Refrain)

He’s the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings;
The Lord of the universe and every living thing.
Son of God since time began. Now He’s come to Bethlehem, Bethlehem!

(Refrain)

O little town of Bethlehem, look who just checked in!
Check out who just checked in.

*DOXOLOGY *“How Great Thou Art” (Refrain only)* UMH #238

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Glorious God, source of every good gift, bless our tithes and offerings this day. May they lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and bring strength and mercy to those in need. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn *“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Verses 1, 2, 3* UMH #234

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go forth and bear Christ’s hope to the world.

All: **We will carry Christ’s hope everywhere we go.**

One: Go forth and bear the mystery of God before others.

All: **We will shine God’s light each and every day.**

One: Go forth and bless the world.

All: **We will share the Spirit in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us share God’s love and peace with one another.

PLEASE JOIN CUMC IN-PERSON/ZOOM COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 19, 2021 10:00 AM

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

100 Park Boulevard, Massapequa, New York 11758 • (516) 541-7008
Rev. Jane Kim, Pastor Jeong-Hwa Park, Minister of Music Rita Lieberman, Secretary

by God's grace would become the means through which God would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing. We seek a blessing.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope, of peace, of joy and of today, love, as a sign that we know blessing and we know waiting for blessing to be felt and lived. We light these candles as a sign that we still seek a blessing. It's time to go home.

Light four candles in the Advent wreath

CHILDREN'S PRAISE

"Born is the King"

Brentwood Benson

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT-Lessons and Carols

The Christmas story through various Biblical passages (Isaiah, Matthew and Luke) and then carols and hymns.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let all who wish to know the ways of life and death listen for the word of God. Truly the presence of the Lord is in this place.

ADVENT

Scripture: **Isaiah 7:14** – *Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel*

Isaiah 9:6 – *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Hymn: **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Verses 1, 2, 4** UMH #211

ANGEL APPEARS TO MARY

Scripture: **Luke 1:26-38** – *In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary... the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus... "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God..." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said" Then the angel left her.*

ANGEL APPEARS TO JOSEPH

Scripture: **Matthew 1:18-23** – *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of*

David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to son, and they will call him Emmanuel" – which means, "God with us."

Hymn: **"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Verses 1,2,4**

UMH #218

BIRTH OF CHRIST

Scripture: **Luke 2:1-7** – *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

CUMC YOUNGER SINGERS

"Happy Birthday, Jesus"

Carol Cymbala

Happy birthday Jesus,
I'm so glad it's Christmas
All the tinsel and lights and the presents are nice
But the real gift is you

Happy birthday Jesus
I'm so glad it's Christmas
All the carols and bells make the holidays swell
And it's all about you
Happy birthday Jesus, Jesus I love you.

SHEPHERDS

Scripture: **Luke 2:8-15** – *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men..."*

Hymn: **"Angels We Have Heard on High" Verses 1, 2, 3** UMH #238