

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m.

December 22, 2024

PRELUDE

Meditation: Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine
by Gilbert Martin

INTROIT

O Little Town of Bethlehem
by Lewis H. Redner

CUMC Adult Choir
Previously Recorded

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

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!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May God increase our love for one another and strengthen our hearts in holiness, as we greet one another in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you

All: And also with you

*HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH #238

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice in the presence and love of Christ.

All: We rejoice in the one who lives in our hearts.

One: Rejoice, for Christ brings justice and peace to our world.

All: We rejoice in the one who calls us to justice and peace.

One: Rejoice with faith and hope.

All: We rejoice in the one whose promises are true.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION:

The Bohenek-Grassano Family

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 Community United Methodist Church, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

Congregation: God invites us 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 first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath are lit.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF YEARNING

Merciful Savior, you know the hunger of our hearts, the hurt of our world, and the weakness of our lives. Feed us with faith and hope. Comfort us with love and joy. Forgive us with your grace. Strengthen us with your Spirit and give us the faith of Mary. For we yearn to proclaim your promises and draw strength from your vision of justice and peace in our weary world. In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ's mercy is for you, my friends. Christ's mercy is for me. Christ's mercy and grace are sure and assuring. May it be well with our souls. Amen.

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

See Insert

INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

With joy and faith, may we bring our gifts and our love before God in this time of offering.

WEEKLY OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Worth The Wait
by Phil Wickham & Tyler Halford

Tyler Stankiewicz
Vocal Soloist

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May these gifts glorify your name, Holy One. May the ministries we support bring justice and peace to your world. May they offer faith and hope to your people. In grateful joy, we pray. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of peace and justice, you have taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Today we raise Israel and Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine and Russia, and all parts of the world where people are suffering from war. Provide protection and comfort to the innocent who have been

impacted. Transform the hearts and minds of all those who perpetuate violence and oppression. Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward world peace; may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference. Stop the wars o, God. Amen.

*HYMN *The First Noel* UMH #245
Verses 1,2,5

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go forth with joy. Go forth in faith.

All: **May peace be our way in the world.**

FAREWELL *Go Now in Peace (2x)* UMH #665

POSTLUDE *Away in a Manger*
arr. by Michael Burkhardt

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 22, 2024

Rev. Sue Hyosuk Yun Jeong-Hwa Park
Pastor Minister of Music

Stacey Longenberger
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