

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m.

December 11, 2022

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH#230

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!

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

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

One: Rejoice! God's promises are ever near.

All: We wait for Christ's birth with patience.

One: Rejoice! God's strength is with us.

All: We rest in the power of God's mighty love.

One: Rejoice! We gather in the joy of our salvation.

All: In this love, we gather to worship and pray.

One: And together let us pray.

All: Promised One, enter our worship with your promised presence, that we may know you better. Enter our lives and our world, that we may proclaim your presence and sing your praises. In this season of preparation and reflection, make us bearers of your promise to the world that all may know the power of your amazing love. With joyous gratitude, we pray in your blessed name. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION

1st speaker: It's a reunion, every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy, nothing less than pure joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day, or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home.

2nd speaker: We rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then to live like that was our truth even now, even here. It is joy to go home.

3rd speaker: John the Baptist reminds us, however, that it takes choices to live in this joy. It doesn't just happen; we choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and give and care for others, by how we do the job we do and how we impact the world around us. We build joy as we build a home in this world and the next.

4th speaker: We light these candles, the candle of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and we walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. It is time to go home.

Light two candles in the Advent wreath. Light pink colored candle in the wreath

All: Come to us, Promised One, in our time of waiting. Keep the vision of your salvation before our eyes, where the blind receives their sight. Shine the light of your healing love in to the darkness of our land, that all may see your glory and know that salvation is at hand. Live in and through us during this Advent season that we might be messengers of your grace and instruments of your peace. Amen.

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES "Children's Message"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

THE HEBREW READING Isaiah 35:1-10

THE EPISTLE READING James 5:7-10

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 1:46--55

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "In Your Mercy" Rev. Jane Kim

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

God of promise, be with us in our hour of need. Grant us hope, when despair overwhelms us. Grant us healing and mercy, when illness and injury sap our strength. Grant us life and growth, when death and stagnation threaten us. Grant us patience and perseverance, when we grow weary of awaiting the coming of your kingdom, In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In Christ's mercy and grace, God's ransomed one return. In Christ's love and faithfulness, everlasting happiness and joy flow abundantly and forgiveness and mercy make us whole.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Let us be generous in our giving, that others may see in us the transforming power of God. Let us be lavish in our gifts, that others may draw life from the bounty of God's blessings.

WEEKLY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“Awaken Us, O Lord”
CUMC Adult Choir*

Mark Hayes

No moonlight in the trees, no starlight on the streams,
no nights as black as these have ever filled our dreams.
Shrouded with despair and covered up in tears.
The cloaks of grief we wear have weighed us down for years.

Awaken us, O Lord, to a brighter day,
dawning of a new hope dispersing fears away.
A candle for the lost, a beacon in the night.
Send Immanuel, send to us Your light

The humble and the meek, the broken and the blind,
the feeble and the weak are praying for a sign.
Come and now accomplish Your righteous sov’ reign plan.
Bring to us Your promise, show us Lord, Your hand.

*DOXOLOGY

“How Great Thou Art” Refrain Only

UMH #77

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

God of promises and joy, receive these gifts we return to you now. Bless this offering, that our gifts may be signs of joy and hope for others in need. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We believe that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and the ruler of earth’s governments. Please quiet the clamor of warring nations. We pray for wars cease to the ends of the earth. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Please watch over all the children in Ukraine. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

*HYMN

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

UMH #240

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: As children of God’s promise, we go now to bring hope to the world.

All: **Blessed by Christ’s presence, we go forth in joy and love.**

One: Go forth and magnify the Lord.

All: **We will rejoice in God, our Savior.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 11, 2022

Rev. Jane H. Kim

Pastor

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Minister of Music

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