

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m. *Christmas Pageant* December 18, 2022

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT *"Noel" (He Is Born)* Insert
Tomme Profitt / arr. Dan Galbraith
CUMC Adult Choir

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: O God, hear our call.

All: Stir up your strength and come to save us!

One: Restore us, O God.

All: Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

One: For we know that new life is coming.

All: A child will change us all. And we will forever call on his name.

One: And together let us pray.

All: Holy One, you send us new life in so many forms. Open our minds, that we may recognize it. Open our hearts, that we may receive it. Open our bodies, that we may embrace it. Open our souls, that we may live it. Open us this day and all days. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION

1st speaker: Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we just feel lost and uncertain about life, we need a blessing. We say we need advice, or support, 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.

2nd speaker: For many of us, we go to talk to family, 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 together, 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.

3rd speaker: 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. God surely would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing. We seek a blessing.

4th speaker: 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 know God.

All: 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 7:14

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES *"Children's Message"*

A Christmas Pageant

Insert

Presented by the Children, Family of Community UMC, and CUMC Adult Choir

SERMON *"For Unto Us A Child is Born"* 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

O God, you bring us life in ways we do not even realize, in forms we do not always understand. We are so busy, we do not always pay attention to your presence when it comes. And grace slips by us., unrecognized and unrequited. We miss the opportunity to find you in one another. Forgive us, God, for our distractions. Remind our busy brains that there is nothing we have to do to be loved by you, nothing we have to make or even be. For your new life is coming even now, awaiting to make us whole. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

To the weak and the strong, Christ comes. To the old and the young, Christ appears. To the lost and found, Christ arrives. Christ makes us apostles and offers us grace. He makes us family and welcomes us in his arms.

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 HYMN *"We Three Kings"* Verses 1,2,3,4 UMH 239

*DOXOLOGY *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* Refrain Only UMH #238

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Gracious One, you have restored us in body and in soul. You have given us abundant life, more than we could have ever imagined. You have made your face shine upon us to make us whole. Holy One, bless now the offerings of our hearts and lives, that we might shine as you shine, and share your blessings with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. Jesus the Prince of Peace and the ruler of earth's governments, we pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* Verses 1, 2, 4 UMH #240

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Beloved, welcome the grace of God, as you welcome the coming of Christ.

All: We go in peace to love and serve. Amen.

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

100 Park Boulevard, Massapequa, New York 11758 • (516) 541-7008

Rev. Jane H. Kim

Jeong-Hwa Park

Mrs. Rita Lieberman

Pastor

Minister of Music

Secretary