ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m. December 10, 2023

PRELUDE "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

by Marin Luther/arr. Roger Wilson

INTROIT "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

CUMC Adult Choir

by Jacques Berthier

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: The peace of the Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Let us share God's love and peace with one another.

*HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" UMH #224

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Prepare the path of God.

All: We prepare by waiting with patience.

One: Prepare the path of God.

All: We prepare by living with faith and love.

One: Prepare the path of God.

All: We prepare by pursuing justice and peace.

One: Prepare the path of God.

All: We prepare, we wait, we pray.

One: May God bless us with both patience and passion.

All: We wait and pray to create the path of God.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION

The Aarseth Family

Reader 1: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Light two candles of the Advent wreath.

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES "Children's Message" Rev. Sue H. Yun

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Shepherd, gather us in your arms of love. Cover us with your mercy and grace, that injustices might be healed and transformed into righteousness, justice and peace for your world. Guide us to your path, what we may be people who both await and who create your path of peace, justice and love. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God will feed you with goodness and grace. God will give you what is good: mercy and forgiveness, love and acceptance, an eternity of justice and peace.

THE SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:1-11

THE NEW TESTATMENT READING Peter 3:8-15a

THE GOSPEL READING Mark 1:1-8

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Active Waiting" Rev. Sue H. Yun

INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Almighty God, we enter this season from a chaotic world filled with violence, division, and injustice. We hear your prophet Isaiah promising comfort -- then John the Baptist calling us to construction projects. We are reminded we are called to

prepare the way, to be the designers of peace, the builders of justice, the producers of kindness. As we bring our tithes and offerings to you, we pray that our giving continues to point to the Christ who comes in love and compassion. May our giving in this season reflect our hope for the promised kin-dom to reign in our world. We pray this in the name of the Messiah, Jesus our Savior. Amen.

WEEKLY OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Lo. How A Rose E'er Bloomina" **CUMC Adult Choir**

arr. by George Lynn

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" *DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Shepherd of love, all you have given us is good: love and justice, peace and righteousness, faith and hope. May the gifts we now give back to you become gifts of love and justice, peace and righteousness, faith and hope. 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, 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

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

UMH #251

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Go forth with patience to await Christ's arrival. Go forth with passion to proclaim Christ's presence. Go forth with perseverance to live Christ's promises. Go forth to wait and create the path of God.

POSTLUDE

"The Conventry Carol" by Robert J. Hughes

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

New York 11758 • (516) 541-7008 December 10, 2023 100 Park Boulevard, Massapequa,

Stacey Longenberger Mrs. Sue Hyosuk Yun Pastor

Minister of Music