# ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m. December 24, 2023

PRELUDE "Love Came Down at Christmas"

by Benton Price

INTROIT "Noel (He is Born)" CUMC Adult Choir

by Tommee Profitt

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 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" UMH #220

**CALL TO WORSHIP** 

One: The night was dark.

All: A baby lay in a manger.

One: The night was still.

All: Angels sang to shepherds.One: The night was expectant.All: God's glory shone brightly.

One: On this night,

All: let us rejoice in the gift of love.

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION

The Ridley Family

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name."

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into hold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Light the four outer candles of the Advent wreath.

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

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We often come to Christmas longing for a cozy story of a baby born in a manger. But this baby will change the world. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. Something strong and powerful began with that infant. Enlarge our minds, increase our vision, and strengthen our commitment, that we too may work for justice and righteousness. Help us walk faithfully with him, and leads us on your paths of peace. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus is the child born for us. He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Parent, Prince of Peace. Rejoice in this good news!

THE SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

THE NEW TESTATMENT READING Romans 16:25-27

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "A Child is Born" Rev. Sue H. Yun

### INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We remember God's gift of Jesus. Having heard the song of the angels, the shepherds had to see for themselves. They returned praising God for this amazing gift. May our gifts today echo their praise. Thank you, God, for Jesus.

# WEEKLY OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

"African Noel" OFFERTORY ANTHEM

**CUMC Adult Choir** 

By Dave & Jean Perry

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

**UMH #95** 

# PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, we are grateful for the incredible gift born in a stable in Bethlehem. The love and joy birthed by Jesus has touched and transformed our lives. We bring our gifts to you this day. We bring our gifts of money to continue your mission of peace. We bring our hearts, as we adore you and long to follow Jesus. 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

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

**UMH #240** 

# \*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Listen! Do you hear the angels singing? "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth, peace to all"? This peace is yours for the asking, a gift from God. Go in peace.

**POSTLUDE** 

"Sheep May Safely Graze"

by J.S. Bach/arr. Dorothy Wells

**OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED** 

**NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS** 

# **COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Mrs. Stacey Longenberger ~ Morning Service December 24, 2023 Rev. Sue Hyosuk Yun Pastor

Minister of Music