

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m.

December 21, 2025

PRELUDE

Bethlehem Manger
by Dorothy Wells

INTROIT

O Come, Little Children
by Johann A. P. Schulz

CUMC Adult Choir

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 from the Realms of Glory* UMH #220

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, and gather with wonder and joy.

All: We come to hear the story of God’s love made known.

One: Long ago, God’s promise took flesh in a child born among us.

All: Today, we welcome that story again, told through our children.

One: Through simple words, joyful songs, and open hearts,

All: God invites us to see the miracle of Emmanuel.

One: Let us worship God, who comes to us in humility and hope.

All: We worship with gratitude, joy, and praise.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION: The Benzoni Family

First Reader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.

Second Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

The first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath are lit.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy; you asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: God does not meet our doubt with rejection, but with mercy. God does not turn away from our questions but draws near in love. In Jesus Christ, God has already come to us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Our doubts are met with compassion, our hearts are opened to hope, and our lives are made new. **Thanks be to God.**

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT See Insert

INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

As we have shared the story of God’s greatest gift to the world, we now respond with our own gifts. Let us offer ourselves and what we have in gratitude and joy.

WEEKLY OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Worth The Wait* Tyler Stankiewicz
by Phil Wickham & Tyler Halford Vocal Soloist

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious and generous God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus, born among us in love and humility. We thank you for the children, and adults who have shared this story, for the joy of their voices, and for the reminder of your light shining in the world. Receive these gifts we offer today, gifts of money, gifts of time, and gifts of ourselves. Use them to spread your love, bring hope to those in need, and draw us closer to your kingdom. We offer all that we have and all that we are in gratitude to you. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

*HYMN *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* UMH #251

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

Advent people, go now with God’s blessing to watch and wait, to receive the angels among us, and to faithfully follow where God leads. Jesus is coming. **Amen.**

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

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December 21, 2025
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