

***At Your Word, Lord, let Your servant go in peace, for with my eyes,  
I have seen Your bright salvation, Israel's Light, begin to rise,  
As the Glory of the nations leading us to Paradise.***

### **CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING**

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

Be people of joy.  
Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.  
Share joy by seeing the good in each other.  
Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.  
Share joy by praying for our world.  
In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy.  
As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. Amen.

#### **\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**"The First Noel"**  
***Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.***

No. 245 (Refrain)



#### **\*RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"**  
***Em-man-u-el, Em-man-u-el,  
His name is called Em-man-u-el.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emm-man-u-el.***

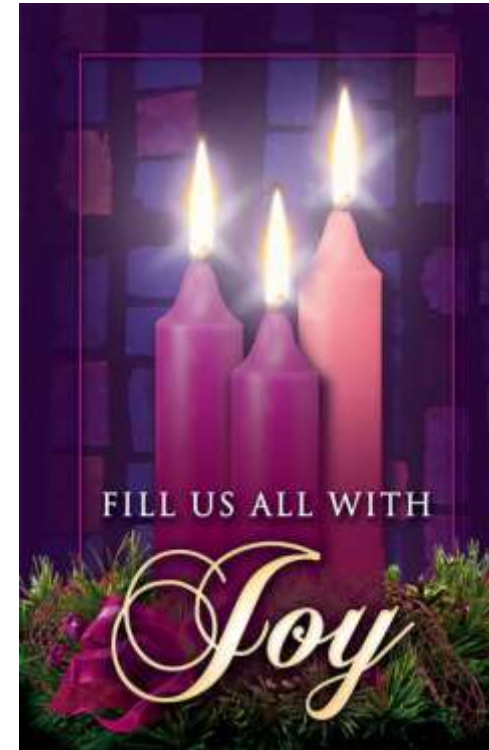
No. 204

#### **\*POSTLUDE**

**"Chorale from "Wake, awake, for night is flying"**

J.S. Bach

**"WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD"**



**DECEMBER 11, 2022**

***Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church***

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Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:15AM

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### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE "Low how a rose e'er blooming" Johannes Brahms

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT  
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 196

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: A path to our God,  
**People: Winding through the ordinary,**  
Pastor: Weaving through the busyness,  
**People: Overcoming roadblocks and detours.**  
Pastor: A way to go home,  
**People: Leaving the past in the past,**  
Pastor: Moving from darkness and exile,  
**People: Coming into the light.**  
Pastor: Advent is a path to our God,  
**People: A way to come home,**  
Pastor: A discovery of God's voice:  
**People: Rejoice, rejoice. God is with us!**

OPENING PRAYER

**Your song is joy, Singer of Creation, for you are Joy—joy that fills the empty with good things; joy that sings light into the darkness; joy that echoes with angelic song; joy that births hope in the midst of despair. Open our lips to sing your praise and receive your melody in our lives. We are ready for your coming, the coming of Joy. Amen.**

When the meal was almost over, Jesus took a cup of wine, and blessed it, giving thanks to you, God, for your gift of love. He lifted that cup, passed it to his disciples, and said, "This is my life's blood. This is my promise. This is for you and for the world. Each time you drink, this remember me." So, we eat, we drink and we remember. A tiny baby born in a shack. A great teacher. God-with-us—then and now. We remember.

Sung to the refrain of "What child is This" (Greensleeves) No. 219

**O Christ has died, O Christ is risen  
Christ will come again. Yes, Christ has died!  
Yes, Christ is risen! The Christ will come again!**

THE CONSECRATION

Holy Spirit, come to us, and to these gifts of the bread and the cup. As you transform these everyday objects into sacramental grace, transform us from ordinary folk into the citizens of God's kingdom. Fill us with the Bread of heaven, so we would feed the hungriest of your children. Pour the cup of grace into us, so we might overflow with love. Make us a compassionate people, who have a passion for your justice.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory are yours, Great God, our Hope, our Peace, now and forever. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER Sung to the tune "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**Our Father, Lord on Heaven's high throne, most holy be your Name. Your Kingdom, come. Your will be done—in heaven the same. Give us, this day, the food we need; forgiven may we be. Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free. Yours is the kingdom, unto you in grateful love we bow; And yours is the power; Lord, let us view your mighty presence now. The glory yours, your praise be sung by angel hosts and men, In every land, by every tongue, forevermore! Amen.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE THANKSGIVING

(Sung to the tune "Angels from the Realms of Glory")  
**Thank the Lord, his praises voicing for this promised faithfulness!  
All who seek the Lord, rejoicing, tell his love, his name confess,  
For He leads us, with thanksgiving in the paths of righteousness.**

Glory and praise are offered to you, God of Advent. On the first day of eternity, you began to create all that is true and just, beautiful and blameless, calling all that you shaped and formed "Good!"

Our ancestors danced in Eden's fields, pure and innocent, but hearing the tunes the world played, they turned away from you. When you called us back through the mouths of the prophets, we defied you to follow those with power and pain. Then you sent John, your messenger, to proclaim the coming of the One who ushers in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with those who, from the first day to the last, glorify your name, singing,

THE SANCTUS      Sung to the tune of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"  
***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of Hosts, by all adored!  
Heaven and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!  
Hail, Hosanna, God Most High! Blest is He who now draws nigh.  
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing!  
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to You!***

And you give us this great gift: Child of Life, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel —God-with-us! In the birth of a tiny baby, born on the edge, born in a shack, visited by the poor, guarded by his parents' love, you give us yourself! He laughed with those who laughed, he grieved with those who grieved, he listened and taught, but most of all—he loved. He loved us with a love that pointed us back to You. He loved us with a love that shocked and challenged. He loved us with a love that raised up the lowly and sent the powerful away to reflect and learn. He loved us into a new relationship with You. Your Christmas gift to the world.

Thank you, loving God!

**Thank you, loving God!**

On the night before his life would be ended, ended because overwhelming love can sometimes cause fear to react in violent ways, Jesus sat with his friends, celebrating, like we sit with our friends, celebrating. Together, they remembered the story of the people of Israel, brought out of slavery by your love. During the meal, Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it, giving thanks to You, God, for your gift of life. He broke that bread and passed it to his disciples, and said, "This is my body, given for you. Each time you eat this, remember me.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY (The Candle of Joy)

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.**

Pastor: Week by week, the light grows stronger and brighter, as we anticipate the coming of the Christ.

**People: The candles of hope and peace are already ablaze. Today, we light the candle of joy.**

Pastor: Rejoicing in the mercy and justice of our Lord, we kindle this flame. Together, we lift our hearts and voices in songs of joy.

## HYMN

(Tune: "Away in a Manger")Ann Freeman Price, No. 217

***Light three Advent candles and know from the start  
That joy can be bursting right out of your heart.  
Light three Advent candles and wait for the morn  
When new birth will happen and light will be born.***

## PRAYER

**Dear God, we pray for the joy that is found in Jesus, that those who seek it may truly find it. May we celebrate in the joy found in You. AMEN.**

## INTROIT

"There's a Song in the Air"

No. 249 V. 2

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord.

**People: We listen for the word of God.**

### CHORAL RESPONSE

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

No. 234 (refrain)

**"O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord"**

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35: 1-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

No. 238 (refrain)

**"Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!"**

### \*GOSPEL LESSON

The Lord be with you,

**And also with you.**

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

### \*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 11: 2-11

### THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

The Gospel of the living Christ.

**Glory to You, oh Lord**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

## CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

### SERMON

"Surviving the Wilderness"

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

### THE OFFERTORY

"Allegro from Pastoral in F Major"

J.S. Bach

### \*DOXOLOGY

To the Tune "What Child Is This"

***"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary."***

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy,

**People: And we give with joy.**

Pastor: Joy for all you have given us;

**People: Joy because of your sacred promises.**

Pastor: Receive these generous offerings,

**People: And use them to spread your joy in our world.**

***Amen.***

## ***CELEBRATION THROUGH HOLY EUCHARIST***

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: As we wait to celebrate Christ's birth, may the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: As we await Christ's return, let us lift up our hearts.

**People: Our hearts are lifted to our God.**

Pastor: As we trust the one who comes to us, let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: Joy is in our hearts, and praise is on our lips.**