

* Indicates, please stand if able.

Liturgist: Chuck Devendorf

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 & John 1:6-8, 19-28 Eric & Kyle Zenz

We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, “God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.” No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

CONGREGATION: **“Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v. 3)** #211

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Today there is good news for us to behold!

P: Those who feared that they were worth little to God have found blessing in God's sight.

L: For in the mercy and love of God, the blind shall see, the lame shall walk without pain, those who could not hear shall be blessed with hearing, and there shall be peace.

P: God's mercy and love is poured out for our parched souls.

L: Behold! The Lord's compassion is with God's people.

P: Believe in the power of God in all things. AMEN.

*OPENING PRAYER

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me. Christ, as a shield overshadow me. Christ under me; Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right. This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful. Be in the heart of each to whom I speak; in the mouth of each who speaks unto me. This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful. Christ as a light; Christ as a shield; Christ beside me on my left and my right. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN	<i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>	#203
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CHILDREN'S TIME Roxie Hostrawser

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God! It is poured out for you and for God's beloved world. Rejoice in this good news, for it is given especially to you. AMEN.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Shon

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

Marvelous are the gifts of God's grace. Let us respond with wonder and delight by offering our very selves back to God. With reverence and devotion, let us give generously of our gifts, that through our offerings, God's promises might be fulfilled.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Oh Night Divine

Bell Choir

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

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-3/Matthew 1:1-6, 17

*HYMN OF PRAISE *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* #206

MESSAGE

God Is Working Out His Purposes

Rev. Shon

CLOSING HYMN

Star-Child

#2095

*BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

POSTLUDE

Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11:1-3/Matthew 1:1-6, 17 (NIV)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—³and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: ²Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David.... ¹⁷Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRAYER FAMILIES: Pray for all those who need healing, or have health issues. Specifically, pray for Clarine Nelson who is struggling with Cancer, Karen Dolsey and others. Also continue to pray for those in Ukraine and other areas of the world where people are suffering.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASS 201: Dec. 22, 5–6:30pm. Dinner will be served.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTIONS: meals served by United Women in Faith.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Dec. 11th, 18th, at 10:30am at Keefe Room.

MISSION OUTREACH: Thank you for your generosity in providing canned fruit and vegetables for the Food Shelf. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by Shelf customers. If you have forgotten about the project, the food boxes will remain in the Gathering Area until Wednesday this week.

UMC of WISCONSIN’S VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION: Is putting together a group to go to Marion Alabama, February 4-12, 2023 to partner with a Marion group to do home repair. More information available on the mission outreach bulletin board. If interested contact Charlene Galston, 715-896-9055.

THANK YOU: To Jean Anderson for making Christmas table coverings for end tables in the Gathering Area making it seem or festive & full of Joy. If you get a chance tell Jean Thanks.

THANK YOU: To all who attended the Celebration Pot Luck. It was great to see so many join together to celebrate our stewardship, ministries with a wide variety of foods shared. God is Good. Jim Hornby.

THANK YOU: To Joe & Maria Williams for preparing the Communion Elements for Celebration Sunday.

SCRIP CARDS: To ensure delivery by Christmas, card orders must be placed no later than today.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: December 24, 5pm.

USHERS/GREETERS: Tom & Lois Epps

THIS WEEK AT THE CHURCH:

Monday:	Worship Committee	5:30pm		
Tuesday:	Trustee/Finance/Ad Council	5:30/6/6:30pm		
Wednesday:	Prayer Meeting	10:00am	Wednesday Connections	10:00am
	Pre-Con	5-6pm	Confirmation Class	7-8pm
	Youth Christmas Caroling	6:00pm		
Thursday:	Discipleship Class 201	5-6:30pm		