

Welcome to Elizabethtown United Methodist Church



Sunday, December 8, 2024

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Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Centering Words

***Call to Worship¹ (Leader part, Congregation part)**

How shall we prepare for the coming of the Lord?

With hearts filled with love and peace.

How shall we prepare for the coming of Christ?

With prayers filled with adoration and devotion.

How shall we prepare for the coming of our savior?.

With songs filled with joy and hope.

How shall we prepare for the coming of God's Son?

With worship filled with passion and spirit.

Opening Prayer¹

Lighting of Advent Candle (Reader parts, Congregation part)

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

-Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

***Opening Hymn**

UMH #196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Prayer of Yearning¹ (Unison)

We need the tender mercy of your grace, Holy One, as we seek to comprehend the light of your love.

Disperse the shadows in our lives and release those who sit in darkness, that they may find peace and hope in the places where fear holds sway.

Come to us like a refiner's fire and fullers' soap, for we long to be purified in body and soul and made ready to see the light of your salvation. Amen.

Words of Assurance¹ (Leader)

Time of Thanksgiving and Prayer

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation**

UMH #216

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Scripture:

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6

Message

Refiner's Fire

Offertory

Doxology

UMH #95

Offertory Prayer¹

***Closing Hymn**

UMH #384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Benediction and Dismissal

***Hymn of Sending Forth**

UMH# 672

God Be With You

Postlude¹

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Announcements

- Hanging of the Greens
 - Today, right after service
- EWOWS (yarn group)
 - Saturday, December 14, 10am-12pm
- Hayride Caroling
 - Saturday, December 14, 6pm
- Community Christmas Tree Lighting
 - Saturday, December 14, 7pm
- Do you have anything to add?

Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

- November 15 - Hazel's Birthday
- November 17 - Dennis' Birthday
- November 25 - Dennis & Denise's Anniversary
- December 12 - Jon's Birthday
- Let us know if we missed your special day

If there's a way the church can serve you, and our community, we want to talk. Call or text us at 513-253-4510.