

Welcome to Elizabethtown United Methodist Church



Sunday, December 3, 2023

Greeting and Announcements

Centering Words

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

The Lord of hosts redeems us when we stray.

With a mighty arm, God comes to save us.

When God hid his face, we strayed. When God withdrew her presence, we stumbled.

God has fed us with the bread of tears and given us tears to drink in full measure.

Yet, through his Son, God calls us back from the pit and restores our future.

God shines upon us with love, that we might be saved.

Come! Let us worship.

Opening Prayer¹

Lighting of Advent Candle (Leader, Congregation)

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come” (Mark 13:35).

People: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

***Opening Hymn**

UMH #577

God of Grace and God of Glory

Prayer of Yearning (Unison)

The mountains quake at your presence, O God.

The nations tremble at your feet.

Rather than rejoicing in our salvation, we have wandered from your path and lost our way.

Tear open the heavens and come down, Mighty One, as you did of old.

Awaken our world from slumber, and help your people stand in awe at your glory.

May your refiner's fire purify us of our transgressions, that we might be reshaped into vessels worthy of your kingdom. Amen

Words of Assurance¹

A Time of Thanksgiving and Prayer

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation** UMH #382

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

Scripture: *Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13: 24-37*

Message Shocking Hope

Offertory

Doxology UMH #95

Offertory Prayer¹

***Closing Hymn** UMH #202

People, Look East

Benediction¹ (Leader part, **Congregation part**)

Keep awake; hope is coming to us.

We await God's salvation.

Keep alert; Christ is coming soon.

We await God's blessings.

Be ready; Christ is among us now.

We go with God's blessing.

***Hymn of Sending Forth**

UMH# 665
Go Now in Peace

Postlude

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Announcements

- Advent Bible Study!
 - Tuesdays, 7pm-8pm
 - Nov 28, Dec 5, 12,19
 - Studying "An Unlikely Advent"
- EWOWS (yarn group)
 - Saturday, December 9, 10am-noon
- Caroling & Community Christmas Tree lighting
 - December 16th, 7pm-8pm
- Do you have an idea, or need, for a small group?
Let us know
- Do you have anything to add?

Birthdays/Anniversaries

- Birthday
 - Dec. 12 - Jon Folke
- Anniversaries
 - none

Did we miss a special day in your life?
Please let Denny know.