

# Welcome to Elizabethtown United Methodist Church



Sunday, December 15, 2024

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## **Prelude**

## **Greeting and Announcements**

## **Centering Words**

### **\*Call to Worship<sup>1</sup> (Leader part, Congregation part)**

Rejoice, for God is here!

**God is our strength and our light.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**We will sing praises for all the earth to hear!**

### **Opening Prayer<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Lighting of Advent Candle (Reader parts, Congregation part)**

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

**Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

**-Light the third candle of the Advent wreath.**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

UMH #221

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

### **Prayer of Yearning<sup>1</sup> (Unison)**

**Merciful God, it can be hard to follow your ways.**

**We want to hold on to what we have.**

**We want to mind our own business and ignore the needs of others.**

**We want to follow the ways of the world and not your ways.**

**Remind us that you offer us forgiveness and bring healing and redemption into our lives.**

**Help us turn to you once again, that we may receive the good news of your endless love and grace. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance<sup>1</sup> (Leader, Congregation)**

God hears our prayers and offers us forgiveness.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Time of Thanksgiving and Prayer**

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**\*Hymn of Preparation**

UMH #229

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**Scripture:**

Luke 3:7-18

**Message**

*What Should We Do?*

**Offertory**

**Doxology**

UMH #95

**Offertory Prayer<sup>1</sup>**

**\*Closing Hymn**

UMH #211

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Benediction and Dismissal**

**\*Hymn of Sending Forth**

UMH# 672

*God Be With You*

**Postlude<sup>1</sup>**

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## Announcements

- Candle Light Christmas Eve Service
  - Tuesday, December 24, 6pm
- EWOWS (yarn group)
  - Saturday, January 11, 10am-12pm
- Board Meeting
  - Sunday, January 12, 1right after service?
- Do you have anything to add?

## Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 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.**