

Welcome to Elizabethtown United Methodist Church



Sunday, December 22, 2024

Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Centering Words

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

Rejoice in the presence and love of Christ.

We rejoice in the one who lives in our hearts.

Rejoice, for Christ brings justice and peace to our world.

We rejoice in the one who calls us to justice and peace.

Rejoice with faith and hope.

We rejoice in the one whose promises are true.

Opening Prayer¹

Lighting of Advent Candle (Reader parts, Congregation part)

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O Elizabethtown United Methodist Church, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

-Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

***Opening Hymn**

UMH #230

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

Prayer of Yearning¹ (Unison)

Merciful Savior, you know the hunger of our hearts, the hurt of our world, and the weakness of our lives.

Feed us with faith and hope.

Comfort us with love and joy.

Forgive us with your grace.

Strengthen us with your Spirit and give us the faith of Mary.

For we yearn to proclaim your promises and draw strength from your vision of justice and peace in our weary world.

In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance¹

Time of Thanksgiving and Prayer

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation**

UMH #244

Twos in the Moon of Wintertime

Scripture:

Luke 1:39-56

Message

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Offertory

Doxology

UMH #95

Offertory Prayer¹

***Closing Hymn**

UMH #250

Once in Royal David's City

Benediction and Dismissal (Leader, Congregation)

Go forth with joy.

Go forth in faith.

May peace be our way in the world. Amen.

***Hymn of Sending Forth**

UMH# 672

God Be With You

Postlude¹

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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 19, right 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.