

+++++

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you'd like to help distribute Project Joy food and gifts to our church's assigned families, let Pastor Trey know. We'll pick up our share of gifts and food tomorrow, December 14, at noon from Whitehouse First Assembly, and will distribute them as we're able during the week.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Christmas Eve planning survey. We'll have one service on December 24 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you'll join us, either in person or virtually.

On December 21 at 6:30 p.m., we'll be holding a Service of the Longest Night. The holidays are hard for many people, because this time of year brings up memories of lost loved ones, or because hearing all the talk of joy and cheer can make us very aware of difficult moments in our lives. This service is for anyone finding the holidays difficult this year, or for people who want to come alongside those who are hurting.

+++++

PRAYER LIST

The Weavers	The Loros	Karn Schmidt	Michael Robinson
Sandra Walton	Brenda Caps	Betty Garner	Bert Gardner
Gaige Hendley	Lauren Lawler	Cindy North	Kelly Kea
Kristen Longfellow	Guy De LaMarter	Teresa Mitchum Hughes	Paul Rider
Janice Dupree	Joyce Bammes	The Lintners	Hannah Dintelman
Jason Krob	Luke Shaeffer	Gene Ruelle	Our Community
Ryan Baron	Bri Benoit	Carolyn & Patrick McClain	First Responders
The Wilkes	Harold Marshall	Bobbie Akers	Our Schools
Our Schools	Matt Lockwood	Michael Lavender	Members of our military
Our Country	Our church family	Our elected officials	

+++++

NOTES

+++++

Whitehouse United Methodist Church
405 W. Main St.
Whitehouse, TX, 75791

www.whitehouseumc.com
Facebook: /WhitehouseUMC
Instagram: @umcwhitehousetx

903-839-2173
info@whitehouseumc.com



WHITEHOUSE UMC

...to love, serve, and share Christ

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2020—9:30 AM

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & †OPENING PRAYER

†LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 & John 1:6-8, 19-28
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.

O come, o come, Emmanuel.

†SUNG RESPONSE: *Until Jesus comes, until Jesus come, I'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.*
"Until Jesus Comes" – words & music by Dean McIntrye
©2005 The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church CCLI #1550924

†HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH 238

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*1. Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.*

*2. Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the glad tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?*

3. *Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*

4. *See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.*

“Angels We Have Heard on High” – words trad. French carol, trans. *Crown of Jesus*, alt.;

music trad. French melody, arr. by Edward Schippen Barnes CCLI #1550924

†AFFIRMATION An Affirmation for Advent by Nathan Nettleton

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

**We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope, God’s laughter in the face of despair.**

**Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth as the body of Christ,
and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.**

**We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through the world’s deep sorrow will be raised from the waters,
robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God’s desire.**

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

†RESPONSE The Gloria Patri UMH 70

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

“Glory be to the Father” – words *Lesser Doxology*; music by Charles Meineke CCLI #1550924

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Trey Burns

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

†SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:5-25

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’ Zechariah said to the angel, ‘How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.’ The angel replied, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.’ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ‘This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.’

The word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Waiting... with Elizabeth & Zechariah Rev. Trey Burns

†OFFERING MOMENT & DOXOLOGY UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” – words by Thomas Ken, adapt. By Gilbert H. Viera;
music from *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, hamr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams
adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House CCLI #1550924

CHRISTMAS CANTATA Songs of Advent and Christmas (A Collection)
Presented by the WUMC Chancel Choir accompanied by guest musicians.

†HYMN Emmanuel, Emmanuel UMH 204

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” – words and music by Bob McGee © 1976 C.A. Music (div. of Christian Artists Corp.) CCLI #1550924

†BENEDCITION

POSTLUDE