



WHITEHOUSE UMC

...to love, serve, and share Christ

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2020—9:30 AM

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & †OPENING PRAYER

†LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

based on 2 Samuel 7:1-11 & Luke 1:26-38

We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and the divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that 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 McIntyre ©2005 The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church CCLI #1550924

†HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

*1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sing creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

*2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light.*

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

*3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star.*

*4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear.*

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" – words by James Montgomery; music by Henry T. Smart. 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

†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

†HYMN

He Is Born

UMH 228

*Refrain: He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.*

*Thru long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last.*

*O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind.*

*Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us thy heavenly peace.*

"He Is Born" – words 19th cent. French carol, trans. anon.; music 18th cent. French carol harm. by Carlton R. Young
Harm © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House CCLI #1550924

†SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-56

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever."

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

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

SERMON

Waiting... with Mary

Rev. Trey Burns

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

†HYMN

Once in Royal David's City vv. 1-2, 4

UMH 250

*Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.*

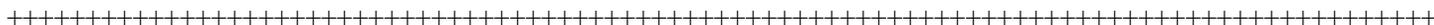
*He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.*

"Once in Royal David's City" – words Cecil Frances Alexander; music by Henry J. Gauntlett CCLI #1550924

†BENEDCITION

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

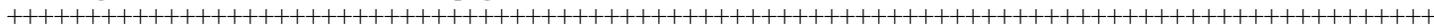
Tomorrow (December 21) at 6:30 p.m., we'll be holding a Service of the Longest Night. The holidays are hard for many people, because this time of year brings up memories of lost loved ones, or because hearing all the talk of joy and cheer can make us very aware of difficult moments in our lives. This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

Don't forget our special Christmas/End-of-Year offering. This year, our Finance Committee is asking for donations to benefit Lakewood Methodist Camp and the TJC Wesley Foundation (United Methodist Campus ministry). You can designate a gift for this offering online at whitehouseumc.com/donate or by putting "Christmas offering" on the memo line of a check.

We will have one service on Christmas Eve at 6:00p.m. This service will be live streamed for those who wish to attend virtually. We'll be celebrating Holy Communion, but will **not** have drive through communion following the service.

There will be no Wednesday night youth group until the start of the new year. Our first Wednesday back will be January 6.

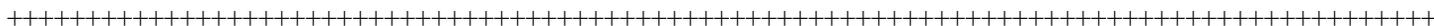
Next week's Sunday service will be online only. We hope you'll join us for our live stream on our Facebook page, or by watching our service video later on that page or on our church website.



PRAYER LIST

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|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| The Weavers | The Loros | Michael Robinson | Michael Lavender |
| 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 | Members of our military | |
| Our Country | Our church family | Our elected officials | |

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for the life of Karn Schmidt, who passed away on December 13. We also pray for his wife, Jennie, their three children—Jeff, Karrie, and Jocelyn—Karn's brother Keith, and all those whose lives were bound up with Karn's.



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