

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 11, 2022**

**8:30 a.m.**

**11:00 a.m.**

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**Welcome**

**Prelude**

8:30 - *Four Familiar Nativity Melodies* - Alice Jordan

11:00 – *Gentle Mary laid her child* - Thompson

**Call to Worship**

Do not be afraid.

Glory to God in the highest heaven

See! The ruler of earth shall come,

the Lord who will take from us the heavy burden of our exile.

Praise be to God!

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has visited and redeemed the people.

**Opening Hymn No. 220 - Angels from the Realms of Glory**

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

**Refrain:**

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]*

*Saints, before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear;  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear:  
(Refrain)*

### ***Invocation***

**In the advent seasons, when the past has fled, unasked, away  
and there is nothing left to do but wait,**

**God, shelter us.**

**Be our surrounding darkness;**

**be the fertile soil out of which hope springs in due time.**

**In uncertain times, help us greet the dawn and labor on, love on,**

**in faith awaiting your purpose hid in you waiting to be born in due time. Amen.**

### ***Lighting of the Advent Wreath***

Reader 1: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Reader 2: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

Reader 1: The Psalmist says "Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!"

Reader 2: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.

(All sing #206 refrain) **In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

### ***Scripture Reading***

Luke 2: 8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### **Children's Choirs**

11:00 – *Emmanuel* – Dean Wagner  
A *Waiting Carol* – Helen Kemp

### **God's Word for Young Disciples**

#### **Anthem**

8:30 - *Carol of the Bells* – Peter Wilhousky  
11:00 – *The Yearning* - Craig Courtney

#### **Sermon**

Pastor Jon Priebe

#### **Hymn of Response No. 238 – Angels We Have Heard on High**

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

*Refrain:*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)*

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

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

#### **Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory** - *Carol of Joy* - Dan Forest

#### **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer**

**Closing Hymn No. 240 – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"  
Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"*

**Benediction and Choral Response** (Hymn No. 230)

*Oh holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Postlude - In dulci jubilo - J.S. Bach

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The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and are given:  
in loving memory of their son, James Ball by LuAnne and Erv Ball.

Advent Candlelighters: 8:30 **8:30** - Jim, Jen and Ben LaFleur; **11:00** - Dudley and Lori Turner  
Service Music: 8:30 Epworth Choir; 11:00 All Children's Choirs and Chancel Choir; Children's Bell  
Ringers **Both**: Kim Yoak, soloist

### CHURCH NOTES

**Holiday Nuts Are Back!** Head down to Asbury Hall between and after church services and in the church office during the week to purchase delicious nuts for the holiday. Or order them for a specific Sunday. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center. We are offering Deluxe mixed nuts and whole cashews for \$10/lb and raw pecans for \$12/lb.

**Advent Remembrance Service** - On Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00 pm we will hold our Advent Remembrance Service in the Chapel. This event is a way we can remember those who have lost loved ones, or experienced other loss in the past year. If you plan to attend, please bring an ornament to hang on the Christmas tree in memory of your lost loved ones for the service. You may take the ornament home after the service ends.

**First Church Feeds** - Our December food distributions have been moved to the 3rd Saturday due to the Christmas holiday. Please mark your calendars for December 17th. We will pack at 10:00 am on Monday December 12th, and Wednesday December 14th at 7:00 pm. If you have not volunteered before, or you are interested in helping be the hands of Jesus to those in our community that need food assistance, please contact Jen LaFleur at [jenlafleur98@yahoo.com](mailto:jenlafleur98@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Hat & Mitten Mission**- we are starting our Hat & Mitten mission now that the weather is growing colder. If you are out shopping and you find gloves/ mittens/ winter hats, or socks, please consider purchasing them for this mission project. We will also collect very gently worn items. The donation table is located across from the church office, outside of the chapel. Items may be left there, or if the line is empty, please feel free to bag the items, then place them directly outside on the line at the corner of Portage Trail & 3rd Street.

**Blessings Box**- our blessing box certainly lives up to its name by blessing those in the community who need assistance with food. If donating items, please avoid items in glass, as these may shatter and injure someone due to the cold weather. Items may be placed in the box directly, or brought inside and placed on the donation table located outside the church library. We are starting to run low on items, so please consider donating canned foods, individual oatmeal packets, ramen noodles, individual fruit cups, individual mac-n-cheese, travel size hygiene items.

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## Next Steps

### Left Out

*vs. 15* – Why did the angels have to leave after they announced Jesus’s birth?

*Luke 1:38* – Gabriel also left Mary immediately after his message was given

### When the End is Not in Sight

The angels brought messages from God, but weren’t invited to witness the birth itself

Faith sometimes means acting out of trust when we can’t see the whole picture

Questions for Reflection: The angels had important roles to play in the Incarnation of God with Us, the birth of Jesus. They carried the news to Mary, comforted and guided Joseph, and announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. And yet, they weren’t included in the nativity itself. Have you ever been on the outside of something important, looking in? How did that make you feel? Are there parts to plan in great moments that aren’t direct and in the spotlight?

Question for Discussion: The angels were given several tasks of communicating God’s plans and activity to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. It’s not clear, however, that they understood what was happening. How do you handle when you see God at work but don’t understand what is being done or why? How do you find trust when you cannot see the end of God’s plans?

Memory Verse: **Proverbs 3:5-6** – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Readings for this Week: Luke 2:1-7, Proverbs 3:1-8, 1 Peter 1:1-9

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
DECEMBER 11, 2022**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller

**HOSPITALIZED:**

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser	Robert & Patsy Boyd Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Tom Cully Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost	Jim Henes Gus Mercurio Bonnie & Jerry Nine Pat Park Kathi Sawyer David Townsend Mary & Ken Tunstall Marilyn Waller
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**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Family of member Dave Gohr on his death on 11/26.

Family of member Donna Copeland on her death on 11/17.

Family of member Gary Kinsey on his death on 11/20.