

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/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.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn 188**—*Christ is the World's Light*

Benediction & Congregational Response (Hymn 202, v. 2)**—*People Look East*

Postlude—*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*—Raymond Haan

Music—One License A-731491

**The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in loving memory of James Ball by Erv, LuAnne, Erin and Ryan.**

**Please stand as you are able.

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Dean Wagner, Director of Music/Organist

Tim Zuschin, Assistant Chancel Choir Director

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

Contact Information

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330-923-5241

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Second Sunday in Advent

10:45 am

December 8, 2024

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude—Prelude for Advent—H. Dean Wagner

Call to Worship

For you know what time it is

How it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer now than when we became believers;

The night is far gone, the day is near

Let us then put aside the works of darkness

And put on the armor of light.

Opening Hymn 220** —*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Invocation

O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your herald's urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not done your will and rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ as we yield joyfully to your way and will of love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading—Psalm 89:19-26

Gloria Patri—Glory Be to the Father (Hymnal p. 70)

Candle Lighting Hymn 204—Emmanuel, Emmanuel (*sing before and after liturgy*)

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Anthem—*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*—Dan Forrest Epworth & Chancel Choirs

Grace Neal, soloist; Josiah van Dyck, oboe; Abigail Bontrager, cello; Phil Lantry, piano

This anthem is given by the choir in memory of Cathy Poremba.

God's Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading—Luke 1:26-38

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

Sermon—“The Angel's Promises”

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Hymn of Response 198—My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—Wake, Awake for Night is Flying (Hymn 720)—J.S. Bach

—continued

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #220, Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. 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.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
(Refrain)

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

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

GLORIA PATRI

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.

ADVENT CANDLE RESPONSE

Hymn #204, Emmanuel

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #198, My Soul Gives Glory to My God

1. My soul gives glory to my God,
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me:
Yes, holy is this Name.
All people will declare me blessed,
And blessings they shall claim.
3. From age to age to all who fear,
Such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near,
Dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
Promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
The rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant
Supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises
With present faithfulness.

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #188, Christ Is the World's Light

1. Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father;
Glory to God on high!

2. Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other;
no one can serve him and despise another.
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high!

3. Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother;
he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father.
Glory to God on high!

4. Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;
give God the glory, God with us, my brother:
Glory to God on high!

BENEDICTION

Hymn #202, People Look East

2. Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

Refrain: People, look East and sing today;
love, the Rose is on the way.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Scott Adie	Bonnie Michaud
Bob Ahonen	Delores Marefka
Joanne Ames	Lee Miller
Debbie Amundsen	Lee Minier
Mary Ellen Atwood	Becky & Jerry Pecko
Dorothy Bates	Becky Petty
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Sandi Robinson
Suzanne Callahan	Kathi Sawyer
Jim Evans	Todd Schneider
Mary Griest	John Toomey
Jim Henes	Kathy Walker
Dwight Konic	Rose Ann Youngkin
Kristopher Lewis	

Deepest Sympathy & Prayers: the family of members Patricia Grant who passed away on 11/28 and Jack Archer who passed away on 11/22.

In our greater world: We pray for electricians. We pray for Copley UMC and Family of Faith UMC.

The Master's Singers Chorale: Sunday, December 8 @3:00p in the Sanctuary. This community based chorus is back under the new direction of Marc Weagraff. This performance will feature Schubert's "Mass in E-Flat."

Advent Study: Based on the book *God Is in the Manger*. Please contact the office, 330-923-5241, to secure a copy of the book for \$10. The study will meet the first four Mondays in December (2, 9, 16, 23) @7:00pm in the Parlor.

Puzzles & Games Collection: *Acts of Grace Circle* is collecting gently used/new puzzles and board games for all ages to distribute to local nursing homes and Summit Co. Children's Services for Christmas. We appreciate your prayers and support. Games can be dropped off at the *Welcome Center* (label Acts of Grace). Contact Linda Demeter with any questions, 740-334-9290.

Open M Holiday Collection: Open M has begun their Christmas campaign "For the Love of Children." If you would like to donate towards the purchase of gifts for children in need, please mark "Open M Christmas" on your giving envelope. Any amount is appreciated.

Holiday Nut Sale: Purchase your nuts on Sundays, and in the office from 9-3pm/M-F. All proceeds from the sale benefit 2025 Work Camp.

CFHS Vespers: Saturday, December 14 @7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Featuring Cuyahoga Falls High School A Cappella Choir under the direction of Sam Alhadid.

The Procession of the Nativity: Sunday, December 15 @6:00pm in the Sanctuary. The beloved worship service/concert of music with processions of the prophet Isaiah, Gabriel, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi, returns with an almost new program of music, accompanied by orchestra, piano and organ.

Advent Remembrance Service: Wednesday, December 18 @7:00p 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 one(s). You may take the ornament home after the service ends. *If you know someone who is grieving a relationship, a loss, or the death of a loved one, please invite them to attend.*

Winter Gear Collection: We really need gloves! Any scarfs, hats, and gloves, donated for the clothesline outside can be placed in the collection area near the Library. Thank you!

The Angel's Promises

vs. 30 – Gabriel's message for Mary is similar to Zechariah

Afterward, Zechariah is unable to speak but Mary sings

The Four Chapter Gospel

Creation – "... and God said it was ***very good.***"

The Fall – Because of ***sin***, things are not as they are supposed to be

Redemption – Out of God's great love and mercy, ***Jesus saves***

Restoration – We are redeemed not ***out of***, but as ***part of*** a restored creation

Questions for Reflection: The difference between Zechariah's and Mary's responses to Gabriel's appears to be a sense of wonder. Zechariah sought certainty, "How can I know this to be true?" Meanwhile, Mary responds with wonder at the miracle, "How will this be!?" In what areas of life might I need to let go of the search for certainty and instead bring a sense of wonder to what God is doing?

Questions for Discussion: Read Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). How do you see this as echoed or missing in our modern world? Do we face the same or new problems? How does Mary's song suggest to you that God intends to answer the problems of our day?

Memory Verse: Luke 1:14 – "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth."

Readings for this Week: 1 John 1:5-10, Matthew 1:18-25, Romans 3:19-26



Angels from the Realms of Glory

Join Us for Advent
2024

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Christmas Eve Services: Tuesday, December 24

Family-friendly worship @6:00p—featuring our Kids' choirs

Candlelight service @8:00p—featuring our Adult choirs*

**all Epworth alumni are invited to sing. Please meet for rehearsal @7:30pm*