



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Announcements and Greeting

**Prelude** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

### Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader 1: Today is the third Sunday of Advent. During this season called Advent we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. The candle of hope reminds us that our only hope is in God, who promises to redeem and bless all people. The candle of peace reminds us of God's desire for a peaceful world.

**Reader 2: After years of waiting and watching, God's plan for the redemption of the world was revealed. It was subtle and unexpected. God sent a messenger to a remote village far off the beaten path. This messenger appeared to a lowly young woman whom God had favored and chosen.**

Reader 1: The message to this young woman was clear: you are blessed; you are chosen; you will give birth to the Son of God who will reign forever. There is no need to fear for God is in you, and will be with you. Even in her confusion, Mary agreed, and salvation was born.

**Reader 2: The message to Mary is good news and great joy for each of us. Though lowly and unworthy, we have joyfully received the good news of God's salvation. We are chosen to bear the joy of God's favor, mercy, and grace to all people. We have no need to fear, for even if the world calls us foolish, God is with us and God's wisdom will guide us. Today we light the candle of joy.**

### Invocation

**Hymn of Praise** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thy justice here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

**New Testament Lesson** 1 Corinthians 1:20-31

**Advent Drama** "Mary's Moment"

**Morning Prayer** Rev. Jodie Ihfe

**Hymn of Reflection** "The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came"

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes of flame;  
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"  
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

"For know, a blessed Mother you shall be,  
All generations praise continually,  
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."  
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 1:26-38

**Sermon** "Who, Me?" Rev. Gary Ihfe

**Hymn of Commitment** "Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

**Benediction**

**Postlude**