

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose Is Growing”

Michael Burkhardt

ES IST EIN ROS

Greeting

*Advent Candle Lighting

One: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

One: We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, “How can this be? I am only...” Yet, like Mary, the “onlys” that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Many: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

One: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Light four candles of the Advent wreath.

*Hymn

Tell Out, My Soul

UMH 200

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of God’s word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name!
Make known God's might, who wondrous deeds has done;
God's mercy sure, from age to age the same;
God's holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's word!
Firm is the promise and God's mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

*Praise Songs

Praise, O Praise, My God and King

Praise, O praise, my God and King.
Hymns of adoration, sing;
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful, ever sure ..

Alleluia, Alleluia!
King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful ever sure...

We Will Celebrate Our God

We will celebrate our God!...
Let his banner be raised, let his glory be seen.
We will celebrate our God!...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Gracious God, your servant Mary discovered new life growing within her and knew it to be your promised presence. In tender reverence for the holy mystery of your Incarnation, may we be as a womb for your blessed presence, ready to receive and nourish your Word in our lives, open to the stirrings of your Spirit within us. May we faithfully bear your love in the world, that by your grace Christ may be born in us. Amen.

Children's Time

Announcement

Prayers of the People, & the Lord's Prayer

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH 393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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.

The Offering

Offertory Christmas Is with Us Emmanuel K. B. Attah

Christmas is with us, join the celebration,
It's a time to rejoice, rejoice my brother, my sister,
rejoice, rejoice, come and share our jubilation.
Christmas is with us.
Merry Christmas to you, Merry Christmas to you
Over land, over sea, Merry Christmas to you.
Merry Christmas to you, Merry Christmas to you,
Over land, over sea, Merry Christmas to you.
Oh, Merry Christmas to you. Merry Christmas to you.

*Doxology VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Passing of Peace "Shalom" Mensah Essilfie

God's peace be unto you,
We wish you Shalom!
The peace of God which transcends all
understanding be with you forevermore.

*Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55

Anthem Mary's Magnificat Andrew Carter b. 1939

Softly a light is stealing,
Sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful.
Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of Kings.
My soul doth magnify, doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced, rejoiced in God my Saviour.
Mary, her song to Jesus, softly, serenely sings:
"I will love you, I will serve you, May my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of Kings."

Message

*Hymn

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

UMH 198

My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is this name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

*Benediction

Postlude

"Preparation for a King"

René Dubois

Worship Leaders: Bertha Amoako, Janet Amoako, Rhianna Burke, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, Debbie O’Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Advent Candle Lighting – The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries, by Lisa Hancock.

Common Prayer – *Worship & Song: Worship Resources*, Abingdon Press, 2011, 6.

OneLicense Reprint + Livestream and Podcast/Recording License A-726657

CCLI Copyright License # 20653706 CCLI Streaming License #20653696