



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
34 South Main Street
Rochester, NH 03867
(603) 948-1225 or (603) 948-1179
Email at *Office@firstumcrochester.org*

December 24 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(*) *The congregation will please stand as able
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

PRELUDE: Mediation on "Gabriel's Message" Paul Manz

*Music: Basque Carol, Public Domain; Arranged by Paul Manz © 1990 Morningstar Publishers 1727 Larkin Williams
Road St. Louis, MO 63026 recorded with permission under OneLicense.net # A-711296.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

Call to Worship

God of love, we yearn for your presence.

Our hearts ache for your light.

Christ, bearer of miracles, we look to your coming,
for the dawning of your new day.

We look for the light that leads us to life.

Spirit of light, arise in us and guide us,

Our hearts are open mangers,

ready for the birth of the holy child

in our love and hope and gentleness.

Come, O light, and dawn upon us.

Come, O Light, and unfold your beauty within us.

41

Tell Out, My Soul

1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord! Un - num - bered
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his name! Make known his
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might! Powers and do -
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his Word! Firm is his

bles - sings give my spir - it voice; ten - der to me the
might, the deeds his arm has done; his mer - cy sure, from
min - ions lay their glo - ry by. Proud hearts and stub - born
prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure. Tell out, my soul, the

prom - ise of his Word; in God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.
age to age the same; his ho - ly name, the Lord, the might - y one.
wills are put to flight, the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
great - ness of the Lord to chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-)
MUSIC: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949), alt.
Words © 1962, Ren. 1990 Hope Publishing Company

WOODLANDS
10.10.10.10.

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ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING **

Reader 1:

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"

Reader 2:

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.

Congregation:

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.

Reader 1:

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.

The four outer candles of the Advent wreath are lit.

SUNG RESPONSE: *To the tune of WE THREE KINGS*

Light the Advent candle four;
love of God prevails on earth;
The Lord of love is on the way
to offer us perfect love.
O candle of love, burning bright;
shining in the cold winter night;
Love of Jesus, lead and guide us;
fill our hearts with Christmas light.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: [2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#) (Pg. 603) **

ANTHEM NOVA! NOVA!

Refrain

Nova! Nova! Ave' fit ex Eva'

Nova! Nova! Ave' fit ex Eva'

(Translation = News! News! Ave' is made from Eva')

Gabriel of High degree,
he came down from trinity
To Nazareth in Galilee.

Nova! Nova!

He met a maiden in a place,
He kneeled down afore her face,
He said "Hail Mary full of grace"

Nova! Nova!

When the maid heard tell of this
She was full sore abashed I-wys (*indeed*)
And weened (*thought*) that she had done amiss.

Nova! Nova!

Then said the angel Dread not you,
You shall conceive in all virtue,
A child whose name shall be Jesu'

Nova! Nova!

It is not yet six months a-gone
Since Elizabeth conceived John
As it was prophesied before,

Nova! Nova!

Then said the maiden verily
"I am your servant right truly"
Ecce ancilla Domini (*Behold the handmaid of the Lord*)

Nova! Nova!

Text: 15th century Carol, anonymous, Oxford University Press, Music Dept. Great Clarendon Street Oxford UK OX2
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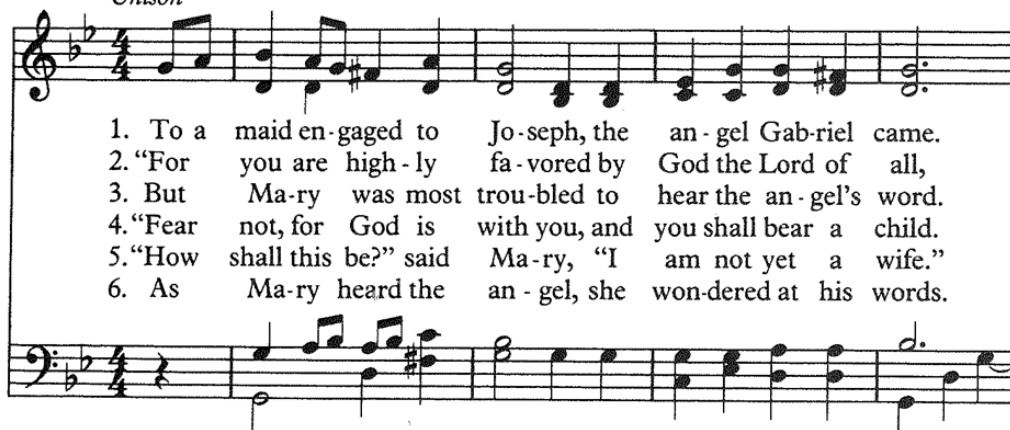
TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

CHILDREN MESSAGE: (WHEN CRILDREN ARE PRESENT)

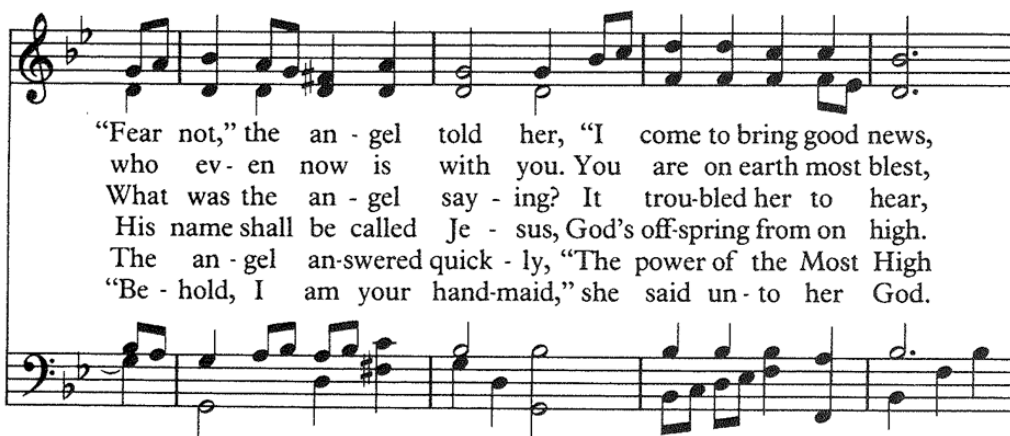
*HYMN OF PREPARATION

215 To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

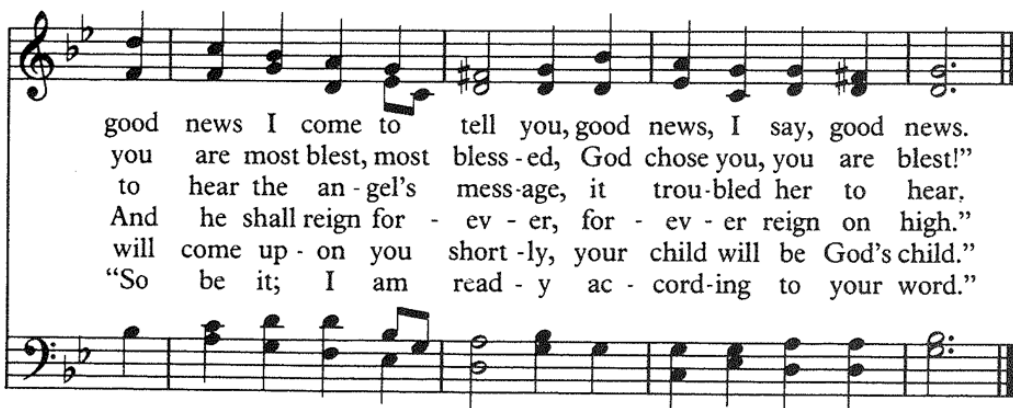
Unison



1. To a maid en-gaged to Jo-seph, the an-gel Gab-riel came.
2. "For you are high-ly fa-vored by God the Lord of all,
3. But Ma-ry was most trou-bled to hear the an-gel's word.
4. "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
5. "How shall this be?" said Ma-ry, "I am not yet a wife."
6. As Ma-ry heard the an-gel, she won-dered at his words.



"Fear not," the an-gel told her, "I come to bring good news,
who ev-en now is with you. You are on earth most blest,
What was the an-gel say-ing? It trou-bled her to hear,
His name shall be called Je-sus, God's off-spring from on high.
The an-gel an-swered quick-ly, "The power of the Most High
"Be-hold, I am your hand-maid," she said un-to her God.



good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.
you are most blest, most bless-ed, God chose you, you are blest!"
to hear the an-gel's mess-age, it trou-bled her to hear,
And he shall reign for-ev-er, for-ev-er reign on high."
will come up-on you short-ly, your child will be God's child."
"So be it; I am read-y ac-cord-ing to your word."

WORDS: Gracia Grindal, 1983 (Lk. 1:26-38)
MUSIC: Rusty Edwards, 1983

ANNUNCIATION
76.76.76

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Please remain standing for the Gospel Lesson

For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glória, Glória

Canon—4 voices

1. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 2. in ex - cé - l - sis De - o!

3. Gló - ri - a, gló - ri - a, 4. al - le - lú - ia, al - le - lú - ia!

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, © 1979, 1988, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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SERMON Ho-Soon Han

“Do Not Be WHAT?”

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

158 Blessed Be the God of Israel

Unison

1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
 2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
 3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,
 who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,
 The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;
 God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

WORDS: Michael Perry (1942-1996)

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson (1933-)

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MERLE'S TUNE

7.6.7.6.D.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

Awaken Us, God

Responsorial Verses (invocation, scripture affirmation, prayer response, offertory, etc.)

Advent: Love

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

"Away in a Manger"

The day of our hearts is near dawn-ing at last. We wake to the
light which the morn-ing stars cast: for all whom we meet shine with
light from a - bove, shine bright with the light of Em - man - u - el's love.

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INVITATION TO PRAYER:

Leader: "The Lord be with you "

People: "And also with you..."

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG *(As above)*

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Improvisation

Kevin G. Lindsay

DOXOLOGY

Doxology

For Advent

Em G C D7 G D G C G

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em

here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2009

Irby

Henry John Gauntlett, 1849

1. Ma - ry glad - ly told her cou - sin, "Praise the Lord! My
2. "Now my soul is glad - ly sing - ing At the great - ness
3. "God is migh - ty, just and ho - ly, And he's done great
4. "God has filled the poor and hun - gry, And he's sent the

spi - rit sings!" Young and hum - ble, she'd been cho - sen! God was
of the Lord. I re - joice, for God is bring - ing His sal -
things for me. Those who fear him know the mer - cy That God
rich a - way. God is act - ive here in his - tory, In a

sure - ly chang - ing things! God of love, her words ring
- va - tion to the world. All who live will say I'm
gives us end - less - ly. Migh - ty ones are brought down
real and won - drous way. God has prom - ised, and I'm

true As we sing her prayer to you:
blest Ev - en in my low - li - ness.
low; Low - ly ones find bless - ings flow.
blessed, For I know God's faith - ful - ness.

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com | New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

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*Benediction

VOLUNTARY

Sortie on Veni Emmanuel

Improvisation - Kevin G. Lindsay

VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Liturgist:

Robert Miles

Video and Sound Engineer:

Zach Cook

Altar Flowers:

From CORNERSTONE VNA, gratitude for hosting Lights of Love Service.

Image on Cover: [Rossetti, Dante Gabriel](#), 1828-1882. *Ecce Ancilla Domini!* (Behold the Lord's Servant), from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54125> [retrieved December 20, 2023].
Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rossetti_Annunciation.jpg.

Background on Image: [HERE](#) (*The artist is the brother to the great poet, Christina Rossetti, author of In the Bleak Midwinter & Love Came Down At Christmas*)

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***Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at unfoldinglight.com
Discipleship ministries <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>

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Looking Ahead

Readings for Christmas Eve/Nativity of the Lord

[Isaiah 9:2-7 / Psalm 96](#)

[Titus 2: 11-14 / Luke 2:1-20](#)

Readings for December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas Day Year "B"

[Isaiah 61:10-62:3 / Psalm 148](#)

[Galatians 4:4-7 / Luke 2:22-40](#)

*More information about our church, our ministries, and to contact us can be found
by following [on our website](#).*

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