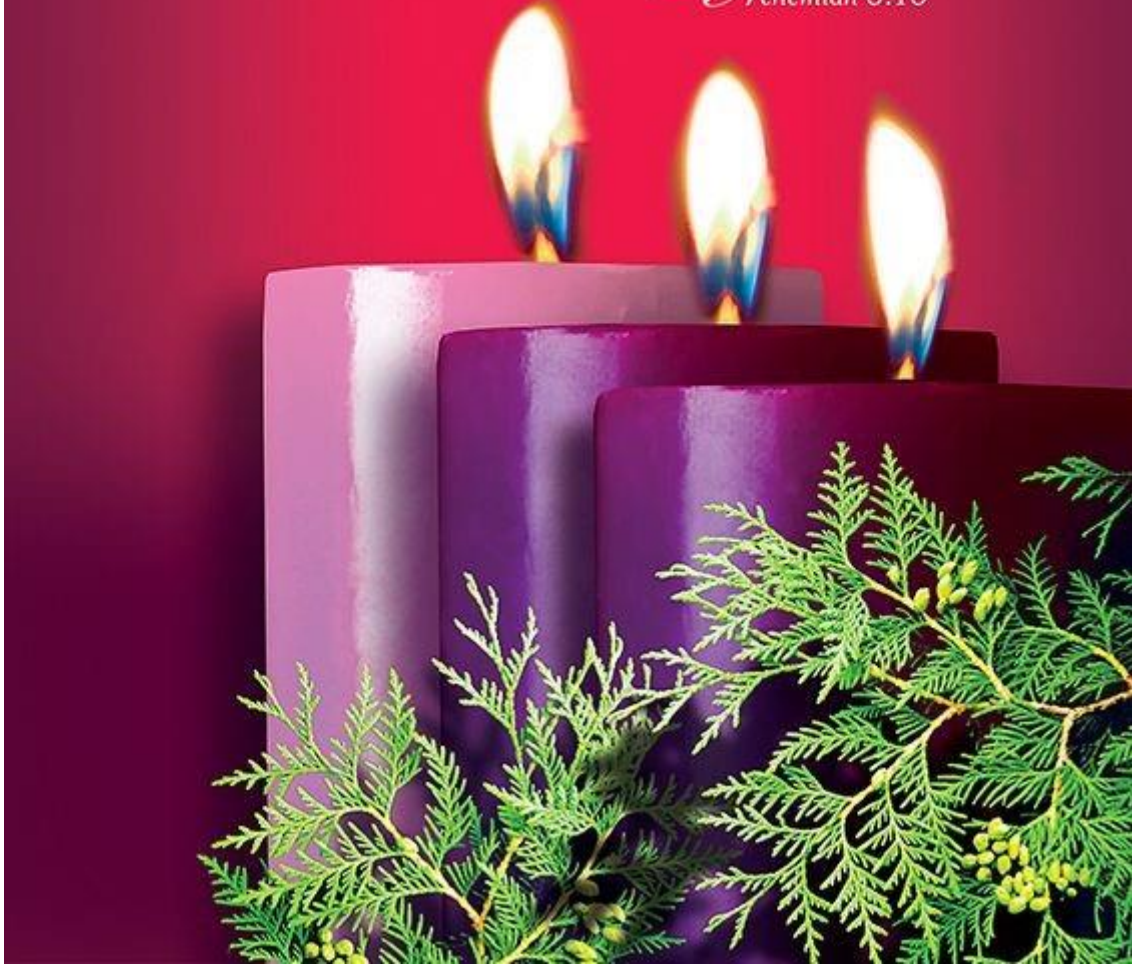


JOY

*T*HE JOY FROM THE LORD
IS YOUR STRENGTH!

— *Nehemiah 8:10*



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

December 17 2023

THIRD 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:

*Due to Copyright restrictions, we are unable to record this morning.
We apologize for the inconvenience.*

CALL TO WORSHIP **

Gentle Christ, you who have come among us in love,
you are still coming.

**Open our hearts that we may prepare for you
with lives of love.**

Spirit of Life, you shone in the darkness, and still you shine.

**Shine in us, that we may proclaim your coming
in lives of joy and justice.**

Incarnate God, in love and mercy

you are continually coming into the world.

**Bless us, that we may participate in your coming
with deep and life-giving peace. Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high, Who or - der all things
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
4. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem, From ev - 'ry foe de -
5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge
Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the
liv - er them That trust your might - y pow'r to
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on



here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show, And teach us in her ways to go.
law, In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re -
save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
high, And close the path to mis - er - y.



joyce! Re - joyce! Em - man - u - el Shall



come to you, O Is - ra - el.

6. O come, O Dayspring from on high 7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
And cheer us by your drawing nigh; In one the hearts of humankind;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, O bid our sad divisions cease,
And death's dark shadow put to flight. And be for us our King of Peace.

Text: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*; Latin 9th C.; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Tune: VENI VENI EMMANUEL, LM with refrain; Mode I; arr. by Gary Daigle, b.1956

Words and music are in the public domain; permission to reproduce for worship bulletins is granted under the provisions of The United Methodist Hymnal and United Methodist Publishing House; PO Box 801, Nashville TN 37202

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING ***

Reader 1: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,
The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Reader 2: We come today
as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief.
And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing,
inspiring freedom where there is captivity,
declaring blessing in places the world has cursed,
and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation:

**We wait as people who experience hardship and pain,
yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy
that sustains our life as God's people.**

Reader 1:

We light these candles

as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy.

May our lives shine with the fierce,

tenacious joy of the Light

who lives in our hearts as we wait and work

for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

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

Light the Advent candle two; with the hope of peace on earth;

The Lord of peace is on the way to comfort and heal us all.

O candle of peace, burning bright; shining in the cold winter night;

Peace 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:

[Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11](#)

(Pg. 603) **

ANTHEM

Advent Processional

arr. John Ferguson

Savior of the nations come:
show the glory of the Son!
Every people stand in awe:
Praise the perfect son of God.

*Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!*

God the Father is his source,
back to God he runs his course;
Down to death and hell descends,
God's high throne he re-ascends.

*His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding.
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!*

Words: *Savior of the Nations Come*, attr. Ambrose 340-397, tr. Martin Seltz 1909-1967 © 1978 Concordia Publishing House 3558 S. Jefferson Ave St. Louis, MO 63118 used by permission; Music: Hymn tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND Public Domain; arr. John Ferguson © 1993 Augsburg Fortress Publishing P.O. Box 1209 Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209 used by permission; Words: *Prepare the Royal Highway* Frans. Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847, hymnal version translated © 1978 Augsburg Fortress Publishing; Music: 17th Century Swedish folk tune public domain; arr. by John Ferguson © 1983 Augsburg Fortress Publishing Used by permission. Reprinted and recorded under oneLicense.net #A 711296

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

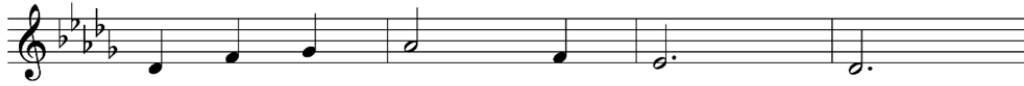
CHILDREN MESSAGE: (WHEN CHILDREN ARE PRESENT)

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right-eous-ness shine on my path And
When we have run with pa-tience the race, We



star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



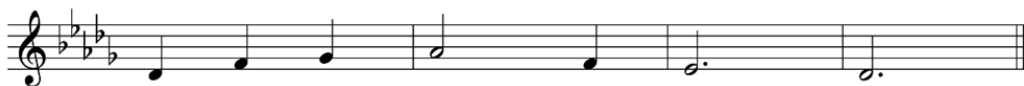
In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Ephesians 5:8-10, Revelation 21:23, John 12:46, 1 John 1:5, Hebrews 12:1; Kathleen Thomerson, b.1934, © 1970, 1975, Celebration
Tune: HOUSTON, 10 7 10 8 9 9 10 7; Kathleen Thomerson, b.1934, © 1970, 1975, Celebration; acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942, © 1987, GIA
Publications, Inc.

Words and Music: Kathleen Thomerson © 1970, 1975 Celebration; Under licenses to GIA Publications: Reprinted and recorded with permission under OneLicense.net # A-711296.

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

Words and Music: Jacques Berthier © 1988, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications INC. American agent;
Reprinted and recorded with permission under [OneLicense.net](#) # A-711296; all rights reserved.

SERMON Ho-Soon Han

“Have You Met John?”

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

The Spirit of the Lord

A Hymn for Advent

1. The spir - it of the Lord will come, good news to bring,
2. Let res - to - ra - tion build com - mu - ni - ties with grace:
3. Bear wit - ness to The Light! Quench not the spir - it's word!

with right - eous - ness and peace and jus - tice com - fort - ing.
where laugh - ter, joy and love will find a wel - come place.
Hold fast un - to the good and heed the pro - phet's word!

God's cov - e - nant will be re - newed
Im - man - u - el will come once more
The breath of life makes straight the way

to call from us our grat - i - tude.
with hope to make our spir - its soar.
that we may greet the prom - ised day!

WORDS: F. Richard Garland, 2008 (Is. 61:1-4, 8-11;
Ps. 126; I Th. 5:16-24; Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28)

DARWALL'S 148th

MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

66.66.88

Words copyright © F. Richard Garland. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003.
Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Used by permission.

This hymn may be reproduced and used in congregational worship with the inclusion of the complete copyright citation on each copy. It may not be used for profit, sold, republished or placed on a website.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

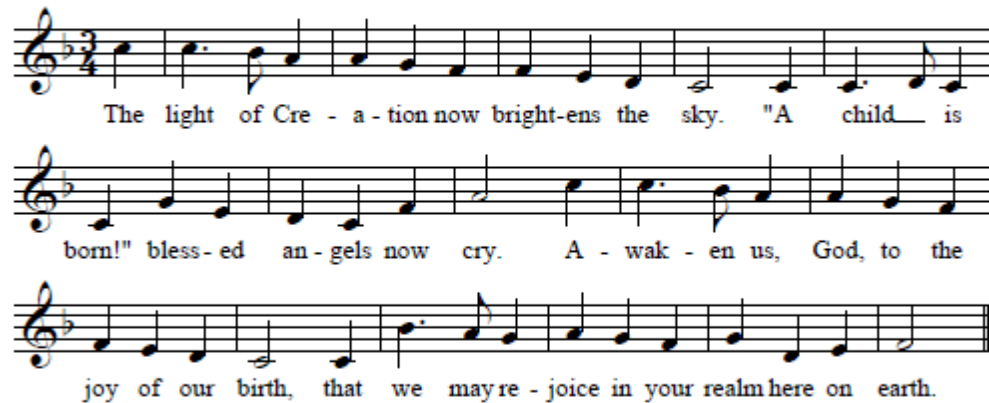
Awaken Us, God

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

Christmas: Joy

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

"Away in a Manger"



The light of Cre - a - tion now bright-ens the sky. "A child_ is
born!" bless - ed an - gels now cry. A - wak - en us, God, to the
joy of our birth, that we may re - joice in your realm here on earth.

Words copyright © 1995 Steve Garnaas Holmes. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203. Website www.umcworship.org. This music may be reproduced and used in congregational worship with the inclusion of the complete copyright citation on each copy. It may not be used for profit, sold, republished, or placed on a website.

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

For Advent

Em G C D7 G D G C G

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

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

CHRIST'S GRACIOUS LIFE

203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!
2. He comes with suc-cor speed - y to those who suf-fer wrong;
3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit-ful earth;
4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
his king-dom still in - creas - ing, a king-dom with-out end.

He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap-tive free;
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light,
Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her-ald, go,
The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, are pre-cious in his sight.
and righ-teous-ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1821 (Ps. 72)
MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt;
adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

ELLACOMBE
76.76 D

Words and music are in the public domain; permission to reproduce for worship bulletins is granted under the provisions of The United Methodist Hymnal and United Methodist Publishing House; PO Box 801, Nashville TN 37202

*Benediction

VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel

Kevin G. Lindsay

VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Liturgist: Gerry McDevitt
Video and Sound Engineer: Alex Wilderman
Altar Flowers: From CORNERSTONE VNA, gratitude for hosting Lights of Love Service.
Image on Cover: Created by Senior staff of FUMC

Hymns and songs in the United Methodist Hymnal and Supplements that are not in the public domain and are published by UM Publishing house or Abingdon Press; are used according to copyright permissions as granted by the hymnal publisher, United Methodist Publishing House, PO BOX 801 Nashville TN 37202

Use of congregational hymns and songs that are not public domain are reported weekly Under our license with onelicense.net # A-711296 and/or CCLI License #21279385 / Streaming #21279392

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

*** The scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved*

Looking Ahead

Readings for December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year "B"

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 / Luke 1:46-55](#)

[Romans 16:25-27 / Luke 1:26-38](#)

Readings for Christmas Eve/Nativity of the Lord

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

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

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

Follow or "LIKE" us on [Facebook](#)

First United Methodist Church uses the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. If you would like your own copy of the bible used in worship to further your own spiritual journey; please don't hesitate to contact the church office.