

FAIRVIEW

UNITED
METHODIST

Christmas Eve Service | December 24, 2023 | 5 PM

Gathering Music Judy Shaw, Director of Music

Greeting Rev. Nancy Martin, Pastor

*Opening Hymn Angles from the Realms of Glory UMH 220 v. 1, 2, 4

*Call to Worship

L: There is room for you here. If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

P: If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.

L: If you're new to this place, or have been here before

P: Come in, come in. There is room for you here.

L: The angels are singing,

P: "Be not afraid."

L: The angels are singing,

P: "Good news and great joy!"

L: So come in, come in!

P: There is room for us here

Lighting the Advent Candle

L: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

P: How does a weary world combat cruelty?

L: How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

P: We do all these things with God's help. For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.

L: Tonight, Christ draws near.

P: Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

L: Tonight, we are not alone.

P: God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

The Story of Mary: Luke 1: 26-35 Nancy Martin

Sung Response: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH 211 v. 1, 4

The Story of Joseph: Matthew 1: 18-23 Clayton Blodgett

Sung Response: Emmanuel (twice through) UMH 204

The Story of the Census: Luke 2: 1-5 Sandy Stegall

Sung Response: O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230 v. 1, 4

The Story of a Birth: Luke 2: 6-7 Nora Amann

Sung Response: Away in a Manger UMH 217 v. 1, 3

The Story of the Shepherds: Luke 2: 8-14 Claire Blodgett

Sung Response: Angels We Have Heard on High UMH 238 v. 1, 2

The Story of the Shepherds II: Luke 2: 15-18 Tresa Griffith

Sung Response: What Child is This UMH 219 v. 1, 2

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

L: Loving Christ, Scripture tells us that you were placed in a manger among livestock and hay because there was no place in the guest room.

P: **The space was full, and yet—your parents made room.**

L: Scripture tells us that shepherds arrived from the fields beyond town.

P: **The space was full, and yet—they made room.**

L: Scripture tells us that Mary pondered what the shepherds had to say.

P: **Her heart was full, and yet—she made room.**

L: Too often we assume there is no more room.

**P: Too often we choose exclusion and close off our hearts.
Teach us how to make room for one another. Teach us how to
make room for you. Carve out space in our hearts to love as you
love, for we do not want to build hostility here. We want to build
your promised day. Guide us forward.
P: With hope and honesty we pray. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, the angels say, "Be not afraid," and they also say, "Unto
you a child is born." Christ is born for you. Christ walked this earth
for you. Christ forgives you. That's what love does. It makes room.
It offers grace. It learns your name.
So repeat these words of hope after me:
Unto us a child is born. **Unto us a child is born.**
Unto us grace is given. **Unto us grace is given.**
May this good news change the very fabric of our lives.
Christ has made room for all of us. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

UMH 12

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Hymn

Silent Night

UMH 239

Benediction

*Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

UMH 246

Postlude

Judy Shaw

The asterisk (*) indicates when to stand in body or spirit.

UMH stands for the United Methodist Hymnal.

Prayers by and adapted from Rev. Sarah (Ari) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Holy Communion: We, in the United Methodist Church, practice Open Communion, meaning anyone who loves Jesus, who earnestly repents of their sin and seeks to live in peace with one another are welcome to the table. We use bread or crackers and grape juice, so as to have as inclusive a table as possible. Gluten free wafers are also available.

We have an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary as you exit the double doors.
To give online, please scan this code using your smart phone's camera:

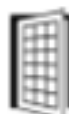


Ways to Participate in the Life of our Church

Sunday Bible Study: Join us for Bible study Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Pastor's Study. This is a discussion based group bring a Bible and an open mind.

Adult Book Study Group: You're invited to join Fairview's Sunday morning book study. We'll read *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups, exploring the Nativity story through overlooked characters like Elizabeth, Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and shepherds. This insightful book highlights Advent themes of hope, love, joy and peace. Your insights on these overlooked characters will enrich our discussions as we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Contact ~~Evangelist~~ Lawson at esjkt993@aol.com to learn more about this thoughtful and uplifting holiday study. We hope you can join our Group in hybrid format - in person & virtual. Meeting ID: 872 2387 8090; Passcode: Breakfast.

JOY Group: Joy Group meets Tuesdays nights in the church office at 6:30 PM. We are studying *Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas* by Jorge Acevedo and others. Advent Study will be Tuesdays at 6:30 PM November 21-December 19. We'll start back with *Brave and Beloved* January 9th.



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Our Mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
Our Vision: to be a neighborhood church where YOU make a difference