

# FAIRVIEW

## UNITED METHODIST

Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 24, 2023 | 10 AM

Gathering Music Judy Shaw

Greeting Rev. Nancy Martin, Pastor

\*Opening Hymn People, Look East UMH 202 v. 1-3

\*Call to Worship Stacy Drane, Liturgist

L: How does a weary world rejoice?

**P: We sing songs of hope.**

**P: We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.**

**P: We tell the stories of what could be.**

**P: We listen for God's word.**

**P: We resist the temptation to give up or give in.**

**P: We remember Mary's song.**

**P: We gather for worship.**

**P: We hope.**

**P: We hope.**

**P: Against all odds, we hope.**

L: Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

L: Let us worship holy God.

Opening Prayer Stacy Drane

Hymn What Child Is This? UMH 219 v 1&2

Lighting the Advent Candle

L: How does a weary world practice love?

**P: By sending cards, and picking up the phone.**

L: By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others. By learning people's stories and finding common ground.

**P: By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.**

L: There are a million ways to practice love. So today we light the candle of

love as a reminder and a charge.

**P: With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns; Prayers of the People

Rev. Nancy Martin

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Children's Moment

Rev. Nancy Martin

Scripture Hymn

Angels We Have on High

UMH 238 v. 1-3

Scripture

Luke 146-55

Stacy Drane

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Sermon

We sing Stories of hope

Rev. Nancy Martin

Generosity Moment

Rev. Nancy Martin

Doxology

(Tune UMH 221)

Praise the one Creator, praise the Living Christ,  
Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night.  
Praise when you are weary, praise in times of joy.  
Praise, my soul, with all your strength and your heart and voice.

Call to Confession

Rev. Nancy Martin

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Nancy Martin

**P: Holy God, More days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world. With open hearts we pray. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

L: Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God. So hear and repeat these words after me:

L: I am God's beloved. **P: I am God's beloved.**

L: I am forgiven. **P: I am forgiven.**

L: I am blessed and sent to serve. **P: I am blessed and sent to serve.**

L: This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can hang our hats on. Thanks be to God for God's unending love. Amen.

\*Closing Hymn Sing We Now of Christmas

UMH 237 v. 1-3

\*Benediction

Rev. Nancy Martin

Postlude

Judy Shaw

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

UMH stands for the United Methodist Hymnal;

TFWS stands for The Faith We Sing

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

Nursery Care is available starting at 9:45 AM for children three years old and under. Children's Church happens during our service for those in fifth grade and under. During this time kids will learn more about the scripture we are focusing on in the worship service. There's usually a craft, game, fellowship, and fun. Adults will pick up their children after the service from the children's church room (at the end of the Children's Corridor).

All volunteers who work with children and youth have passed a background check, have been Safe Gatherings trained, and uphold our Safe Sanctuary policies and procedures. All children are welcome in all aspects of our worship. Feel free to keep your children with you or utilize nursery care or Children's Church.

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:

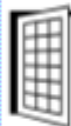


### Ways to Participate in the Life of our Church:

**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 Bilups, 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 Ewell Lawson at [esjk1993@aol.com](mailto:esjk1993@aol.com) to learn more about this thoughtful and uplifting holiday study. We hope you can join us! Group is 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

We are faithful, relational, inclusive, genuine, and service-oriented