

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 19, 2021
4th Sunday in Advent
LOVE**

Announcements:		Dan Tagatac
Prelude:	“Come, O Redeemer, Come”	Fernando Ortega
Welcome:		Pastor Wil Wilson
*Call to Worship:		
Leader: Come to worship Emmanuel, God with us!		
People: Like the shepherds, we have received the invitation to seek out Jesus and encounter him.		
Leader: God invites you to seek out Jesus and share him with others.		
People: With open hearts, open minds, and open doors, we share God’s good news.		
Leader: May we be changed and, in turn, change those with whom we share this news.		
All: Like the shepherds, we spread the good news among the nations, may all come to worship God!		
*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)		
Everlasting God, thank you for sending Jesus to be born in Bethlehem of Judea on that astonishing night, while shepherds watched their flocks. Thank you for the good news of great joy, which is for all people who trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Thank you for this gospel of grace and for entrusting us, no matter who we are, to ponder, treasure, and share it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.		
*Opening Song:	“Let the King of Glory Come”	Michael Joncas
*Hymn:	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	UMH #196
Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Candle of LOVE		
		The Tephford Family
Hymn:	“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” <i>(Sung during the Advent wreath lighting)</i>	UMH #204
*Hymn:	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	UMH #238
Prayer Hymn:	“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”	UMH #218
Pastoral Prayer:		Pastor Wil Wilson
The Lord’s Prayer:		UMH #895
Special Presentation:		Jane Healton
Scripture Reading:	Luke 2:8-20	Anita Ritchie
Sermon:	“God with the Shepherds and the Dismissed”	Pastor, Wil Wilson
Offering: <i>The Special Offering for December will benefit Local Charities: E.H.A.P, Habitat for Humanity and Open Door and UMCOR Disaster Relief</i>		
Offertory:	“Concerto in D minor for Two Violins” Featuring: Lynne Beach, violin; Ken Budka, mandolin	J.S. Bach

*Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

*Offertory Prayer Pastor, Wil Wilson

God of the Outcasts, the shepherds were feared and shunned by the "good people" of the community. But you saw them as beloved children of immense worth. Bless us with your vision. Allow us to see those feared and shunned in our communities with your eyes of love and grace. Allow us to not only see them, but listen to, serve, and love them. Use these gifts to bless those we too often forget. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Closing Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH #234
(v. 1, 2, 3)

*Benediction: Pastor, Wil Wilson

*Postlude: "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" G.R. Woodward/Unknown
Featuring: Ray Ritchie, trumpet

Scripture Passage for Sunday, December 19, 2021

Liturgist: Anita Ritchie

Luke 2:8-20 New revised Standard Version

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"^[c]

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

**Opening Hymn:
Let the King of Glory Come**

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches:
Let the King of Glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people:
Let the King of Glory come!

Who is the King of glory?
Yahweh, holy and strong!
Who is the Lord of majesty?
Yahweh, mighty and strong!

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches:
Let the King of Glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people:
Let the King of Glory come!

Come. O come, Emmanuel:
Come and dwell with us!
Come, O come, you Lord of might:
Banish death and fear!

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches:
Let the King of Glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people:
Let the King of Glory come!

Come, O come, bright Wisdom:
Come and make us wise!
Come, O come, you Day-spring:
Love, uncloseth our eyes!

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches:
Let the King of Glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people:
Let the King of Glory come!

Come, you Key of David, come:
Open our heavenly home!
Come, Desire of nations, come
Bring us into your peace!

Lift up, you gates, lift up your arches:
Let the King of Glory come!
Lift up your hearts and sing, you people:
Let the King of Glory come!

Let the King of glory come!

**Hymn:
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**Advent Candle Lighting Hymn:
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called, Emmanuel.

Hymn:

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Glo - - - - - ria, In excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ria, In excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Glo - - - - - ria, In excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ria, In excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo - - - - - ria, In excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ria, In excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

Glo - - - - - ria, In excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ria, In excelsis Deo!

Prayer Hymn:

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Closing Hymn:
O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
Begotten, not created;

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens
Of heaven above!
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest;

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.