

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 4, 2022
2nd Sunday of Advent
HOPE**

Communion Sunday

We will be celebrating communion this morning. Please have bread and juice/wine available to participate.

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Presentation: "Immanuel" Michael Card
(Susan Zuckerman, Lyrical Dance; Ken Budka, Guitar, and Vocals)

Welcome: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: This is a time for resting in God's presence.

People: Spirit of wisdom and understanding, rest on us.

Leader: This is a time for being shaped as followers of Jesus.

People: Spirit of counsel and might, rest on us.

Leader: This is a time for releasing what holds us back.

People: Spirit of knowledge and awe, rest on us.

All: God, as we attend to you, fill us with hope.

***Opening Prayer: (In Unison)**

Dear God, the world feels overwhelming at times. Pain, violence, and hatred are easy to see and cloud our vision. Restore our sight, O God, to witness the hope you have promised. Renew our hearts to trust you more fully. Inspire us anew this day. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH #203
(v. 1, 3, 4)

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath
The Candle of HOPE
Dawn and Diana Tephford**

*Praise Hymn: "Like a Child" TFWS #2092

Prayer Hymn: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

[For those joining us online, please submit your prayer requests in the comments on the virtual attendance sheet, or email the church office. Your prayer requests will be lifted up in next Sunday's service.]

Nativity Story

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:1-12 Susan Zuckerman

Sermon: "Finding Hope in the Wilderness"

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offering: Today's **Special Offering** will benefit **Local Charities: Open Door, Habitat for Humanity and the Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program.**

Offertory: "The Carolin' Reel" – From Season of Joy
(F.U.M.C. Choir)

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

*Offertory Prayer: (In Unison)

We humbly lift up our offerings on this second Sunday of Advent, seeking your blessing upon them for multiplication and guidance for faithful stewardship. Bless us the givers, as well as those who will receive. Surround us with the hope of this Advent season, we pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Celebration of Communion:

*Sung Responses: "Communion Settings"

UMH pages 12-14
TFWS #2257 (b, c, d)

Communion Hymn:

"In Remembrance of Me"

TFWS #2254

Prayer: (In Unison)

UMH page 39

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Hymn:

"Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord)"

S. Schwartz

*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude:

"The Carolin' Reel" – From Season of Joy
(Reprise)

Scripture Passage for Sunday, December 4, 2022

Liturgist: Susan Zuckerman

Matthew 3:1-12

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

³ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”^[a] ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him and all the region around the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree, therefore, that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with^[c] water for repentance, but the one who is more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^[d] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

**Opening Hymn:
Hail to the Lord's Anointed
UMH #203**

(Verse 1)

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

(Verse 3)

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him, on the mountains,
Shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains,
From hill to valley flow.

(Verse 4)

To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever;
That name to us is love.

**Praise Hymn:
Like a Child
TFWS #2092**

(Verse 1)

Like a child love would send
To reveal and to mend,
Like a child and a friend,
Jesus comes.
Like a child we may find
Claiming heart, soul, and mind,
Like a child strong and kind,
Jesus comes.

(Verse 2)

Like a child we will meet,
Ragged clothes, dirty feet,
Like a child on the street,
Jesus comes.
Like a child we once knew
Coming back into view,
Like a child born anew,
Jesus comes.

(Verse 3)

Like a child born to pray
And to show us the way,
Like a child here to stay,
Jesus comes.

Like a child we receive
All that love can conceive,
Like a child we believe,
Jesus comes.

**Prayer Hymn:
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
UMH #204**

(Verse)

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

(Repeat)

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Communion Settings
TFWS #2257
(b, c, d)

Holy, holy, holy Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the one who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
(Communion Settings Continued...)

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Communion Hymn:
In Remembrance of Me
TFWS #2254

In remembrance of Me, eat this bread.
In remembrance of Me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of Me, pray for the time
When God's own will is done.

In remembrance of Me, heal the sick.
In remembrance of Me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of Me, open the door
And let your neighbors in, let them in.

Take, eat, and be comforted;
Drink and remember, too,
That this is My body
And precious blood shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of Me, search for truth.
In remembrance of Me, always love.
In remembrance of Me, don't look above,
But in your heart,
Look for God.
Do this in remembrance of Me.

Closing Hymn:
Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord)
S. Schwartz
Godspell

Prepare Ye, The Way of The Lord
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord

(Repeat)

December 4, 2022

Announcements:

Welcome to worship service at First United Methodist Church of Freehold. Whether you are joining us in person, or online, we are glad you are with us. We will be celebrating communion later on in today's service, so for those of you joining us virtually, please have bread and juice or wine available to participate.

Donations of new mittens/gloves, hats and scarves to children in need are due by December 9th.

A Note from S/PRC Chair, Melanie Bowen:

Join me as we show our love and appreciation to our church staff. Please give your donations to Melanie Bowen or place them in an envelope in the offering plate marked "staff gifts". We will be collecting your gifts through December 18th. Thank you!

Invite your family and friends to service on **December 11th** for a special choir presentation, **"Season of Joy"** a Celtic Christmas Celebration.

Don't forget to order your **Christmas Poinsettias**. Orders with payment are due by **Wednesday, December 14th**.

Volunteers are needed to provide evening meals for the E.H.A.P. Overnight Program. Our church will host the program on Wednesday evenings beginning December 7th. If you would like to help out, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please see Lyn Johnson or Jane Healton.

Join us for our Advent Study with Pastor Yoseb, Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Coffee Room.

Ken Budka, and Becky and Marshall Gorman will be performing in a special holiday concert, **"Joy to the World"** with the Monmouth Civic Chorus on Sunday, **December 18th** at the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank. The concert starts at 3:00 p.m. For more information and ticket information, click on the link in the Newsletter, or visit **Monmouthcivicchorus.org**.

Our **Christmas Eve services** will be held at 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

We will have an online **Christmas Day service** that will begin at 10:00 a.m. You can view the service through our website and on You Tube.

Grocery Cards (Acme, Shop Rite & Stop and Shop) will be sold after service today.

Today's ALTAR FLOWERS are donated by Diana and Dawn Tephford in memory of their mother, Doris Tephford.