

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 10, 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent - HOPE**

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Introit: "Come, O Redeemer, Come"
Joyful Noise Fernando Ortega

Welcome: Sharon Shutzer

*Call to Worship: Sharon Shutzer

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.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath
The Candle of HOPE
Nancy & Charlie Mongano**

*Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH #211

*Praise Hymn: "In the Waiting"
*Sung to the tune of "Beach Spring" Kathy Mulholland

Introduction to A Time of Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Prayer Hymn: "Like A Child" TFWS #2092

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.]

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Nativity Story: Jane Heulton

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2:1-7

Dan Tagatac

*Friendship Moment and Passing of the Peace

[For those joining us online, please take a moment to sign the online attendance form:

www.freeholdmethodist.org]

Sermon:

It's a Wonderful Life: "We All Need Help"

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory:

"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

(UMH #216)

FUMC Choir

*Doxology:

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #95

Sung to the tune of "O Come. O Come. Emmanuel"

*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.

*Closing Hymn:

"Let the King of Glory Come"

Michael Joncas

*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude:

"Let the King of Glory Come"
(Refrain)

Michael Joncas

Scripture Passage for Sunday, December 10, 2023

Liturgist: Dan Tagatac

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.^[a]

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

**Opening Hymn:
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
UMH #211**

(Verse 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

(Verse 2)

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

(Verse 3)

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

(Verse 4)

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
An ensign of thy people be;
Before thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on thy mercy call.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Praise Hymn:
"In the Waiting"
Kathy Mulholland**

In the waiting is the growing
stronger in the hope of peace.
In believing is the knowing
that our bondage is release.
As the road is our arriving,
and the sacrifice to own,
All our broken dreams and longings
nourish fields where hope is sown.

In the hunger, in the yearning
lies the appetite for joy.
As the barren world is turning
love designs a little boy.
For the love unchanged and ever
shining from a mother's eyes
Is the love that spins the planets
and sustains a paradise.

Days of darkness, nights of fever,
hours of terror lost in time
Swirl in ever winding madness
that consumes each human mind.
But a thread of hope is weaving
through the cold, chaotic wild,
That in time becomes a blanket
tucked around a tiny child.

Thus our waiting is our worship
and our watching is our prayer.
Feed the hungry from the manger;
soon our God will greet us there.
This creation, full of promise,
realized imperfectly
Huddles at a humble stable
waiting for the Word to be.

Prayer Hymn:

“Like A Child”

TFWS #2092

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.

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.

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.

Doxology:

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

(Sung to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

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.

Closing Hymn:

“Let the King of Glory Come”

M. Joncas

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?
Yah-weh, holy and strong!
Who is the Lord of majesty?
Yah-weh, 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 Dayspring:
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!

Announcements
December 10, 2023

Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold. Whether you are joining us in person, or virtually, we are glad you are with us.

Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated by Jane Strauss, in honor of Loved Ones.

Thank you to everyone who donated hats and mittens/gloves to the **OPEN DOOR** Christmas program. Thanks to your generosity, 137 children will be happy and warm.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's time to order **Christmas Poinsettias** that will grace the altar at Christmastime. An order form has been included in this bulletin. Order forms with payment are due by Wednesday, December 13th. The poinsettias will remain on the altar from December 17th through Christmas Eve. Poinsettias are \$10 each.

A MESSAGE 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 17th. Thank you!

UNITED THEATRE CHRISTMAS PLAY:

Come support Daniel Jeon, Kathy Mulholland, Gayle Trulli and Leah Zuckerman in United Theatre's Christmas play, "**Once an Angel**" – Performed on the Wesley Hall stage.

Show dates and times:

December 8th and 9th at 7:00 p.m.

December 10th at 2:00 p.m.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$18 Students, \$15 Children 10 and under. Tickets can be purchased through the United Theatre Website: Unitedtheatreinc.org/tickets. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

****We will have a collection box for Toys for Tots at each show date.***

MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS presents "**Rejoice Greatly**" a celebratory Messiah & More. Come support members of our church as they perform in this special holiday concert on **December 17th** at the Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank. The concert starts at 4:00 p.m. For more information and ticket information visit **Monmouthcivicchorus.org**.

THE 28TH ANNUAL JERSEY CARES COAT DRIVE

The First United Methodist Church of Freehold is collecting new and gently used coats now through Friday, January 5, 2024. All donations of new or gently used coats (Newborn to Adult size) may be placed in the collection boxes located in the Mission Hallway.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help set up, serve and clean up dinners at St. Peter's church on 3 Tuesdays: Jan. 23rd, Feb. 20th and Mar. 19th from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. 15 volunteers are needed (6 volunteers are coming from Foundational Truth). 3 volunteers are needed to prepare the meals between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on the days of the dinners. If you are able to help out, please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please see Lyn Johnson.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Sandy Kaiser | (13) Chloe Jeon |
| (5) Ryan-Brigid Mento | (26) Cathy Rupner |
| (5) Rebecca Leader | (27) Opal Peart |
| (8) Nancy Marcus | (27) Linda Gatti |
| (8) Ray Ritchie | (28) Nancy Schwarzkopf |
| (11) Kristine O'Donnell | (29) Sean Cronin |
| (12) Erika MacDonald | |



Join Us for Our Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve Service Times:

10:00 a.m.

4:30 p.m.

www.freeholdmethodist.org