

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold  
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 17, 2023  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - JOY**

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Prelude: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
Featuring John Spangler, Bass Arr. Chip Davis

Welcome: Sharon Shutzer

\*Call to Worship: Sharon Shutzer

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to praise.

**People: Loving One, strengthen us and steady us.**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to pray.

**People: Living One, say to the fearful parts of us, "Here I am."**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to sing.

**People: Everlasting One, open our hearts, quench our thirst, and let us blossom.**

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

\*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

**Lord, thank you for surprising us with your joy! In the middle of our day-to-day chaos your care and grace find us just when we need it. Continue to transform us with your love, so that we can work on building your kingdom more fully here with all we have and all we are. Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
The Candle of JOY  
Rita & Ed Curven**

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

\*Praise Hymn: "Holy Baby, Holy Child" L. S. Hurst

Introduction to A Time of Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Prayer Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" UMH #64

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 Heaton

Scripture Reading:

Luke 1:46-55

Anne Mayer

\*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](http://www.freeholdmethodist.org)]

Sermon:

It's a Wonderful Life: "Choose Joy"

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

\*Hymn:

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

UMH #240

\*Hymn Sing:

"Away in a Manger"  
"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"  
"The Crowded Stable"  
"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

UMH #217  
UMH #244  
Avery & Marsh  
TFWS #2098

Tithes and Offerings

Anthem:

"The Wexford Carol"  
FUMC Choir

Trad. Irish Carol

\*Offertory:

"Offering"

Paul Baloche

\*Offertory Prayer: (In Unison)

**God, we know you love a cheerful giver, so it is with the absolute joy of this Advent season that we offer our gifts back to you. Bless them and multiply them to extend our reach far and beyond our church and community, to serve your beloved children in all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn:

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

UMH #251

\*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

\*Postlude:

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"  
(Reprise)

UMH #251

## Scripture Passage for Sunday, December 17, 2023

Liturgist: Anne Mayer

### Luke 1:46-55

#### Mary's Song of Praise

<sup>46</sup> And Mary<sup>[a]</sup> said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

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.

He comes with succor speedy  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Are precious in His sight.

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.

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:**  
**"Holy Baby, Holy Child"**  
**Lynn S. Hurst**

Holy baby, holy child,  
We await your coming now.  
You bring us hope  
You bring us peace;  
You bring us joy,  
You bring us love.  
Holy baby, holy child,  
Come to us now.

**Prayer Hymn:**  
**"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" (v. 1, 2)**  
**UMH #64**

Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons,  
Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Falling down before Thee,  
Which wert, and art,  
And evermore shalt be.

**Hymn:**  
**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**  
**UMH #240**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

**HYMN SING:**

**(#1)**  
**“Away in a Manger”**  
**UMH #217**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

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**(#2)**  
**“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”**  
**UMH #244**

‘Twas in the moon of winter time,  
When all the birds had fled,  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou  
Sent an angel choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim,  
And wondering hunters heard the hymn:

**Jesus your King is born,  
Jesus is born,  
In excelsis gloria.**

Within a lodge of broken bark  
The tender babe was found;  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin  
Enwrapped his beauty round;  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
The angel song rang loud and high:

**Jesus your King is born,  
Jesus is born,  
In excelsis gloria.**

*(Continued)...*

The earliest moon of wintertime  
Is not so round and fair  
As was the ring of glory  
On the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before Him  
Knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

**Jesus your King is born,  
Jesus is born,  
In excelsis gloria.**

O children of the forest free,  
O seed of Manitou,  
The holy child of earth and heaven  
Is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy,  
Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy

**Jesus your King is born,  
Jesus is born,  
In excelsis gloria.**

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**(#3)**

**“The Crowded Stable”**

**Richard Avery & Donald Marsh**

**(Refrain)**

**Fayleez naveedahd! (Spanish)  
Jwyyeu Noel! (French)  
Ff’ra Hanasikukuu! (Swahili)  
Shendon kwailow! (Taiwanese)  
Hristos rajdayetsya! (Russian)  
Fröhliche vainockten (German)  
Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!  
Jesus Christ is born!**

From far across the desert sands,  
From cold and snowy northern lands.  
Steaming jungles, city streets,  
In this stable here we meet.

*(Continued)...*

**(Refrain)**

**Fayleez naveedahd! (Spanish)  
Jwyyeu Noel! (French)  
Ff’ra Hanasikukuu! (Swahili)  
Shendon kwailow! (Taiwanese)  
Hristos rajdayetsya! (Russian)  
Fröhliche vainockten (German)  
Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!  
Jesus Christ is born!**

Just see the crowds: red, yellow, brown  
And black and white all gathered ‘round.  
Brought together by the star.  
From all nations here we are.

**Refrain:**

**Fayleez naveedahd! (Spanish)  
Jwyyeu Noel! (French)  
Ff’ra Hanasikukuu! (Swahili)  
Shendon kwailow! (Taiwanese)  
Hristos rajdayetsya! (Russian)  
Fröhliche vainockten (German)  
Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!  
Jesus Christ is born!**

God brings us here to share this sight:  
A baby’s face, a holy light.  
Rage and fear and envy cease.  
Here we all find love and peace.

**Refrain:**

**Fayleez naveedahd! (Spanish)  
Jwyyeu Noel! (French)  
Ff’ra Hanasikukuu! (Swahili)  
Shendon kwailow! (Taiwanese)  
Hristos rajdayetsya! (Russian)  
Fröhliche vainockten (German)  
Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!  
Jesus Christ is born!  
Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!  
Jesus Christ is born!**

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**(#4)**

**“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”  
TFWS #2098**

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
And they say that His name is Jesus.

**(Chorus)**

**He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer oh yes believer  
He come from the glory  
He come from the glorious kingdom**

The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
And they say that His name is Jesus.

**(Chorus)**

**He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer oh yes believer  
He come from the glory  
He come from the glorious kingdom**

The Shepherds came where the baby was born,  
The Shepherds came where the baby was born,  
The Shepherds came where the baby was born,  
And they say that His name is Jesus.

**(Chorus)**

**He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer oh yes believer  
He come from the glory  
He come from the glorious kingdom**

The wise men saw where the baby was born  
The wise men saw where the baby was born  
The wise men saw where the baby was born  
And they said that His name is Jesus.

**(Chorus)**

**He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer oh yes believer  
He come from the glory  
He come from the glorious kingdom**

**Offertory:**

**“Offering”**

**Paul Baloche**

**(v. 1 and Refrain)**

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star  
While angels sang to lowly shepherds.  
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar,  
Hoping to find the child from heaven.  
Falling on their knees,  
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

I bring an offering of worship to my King  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing  
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due  
O Lord I bring an offering to You

I bring an offering to You

**Closing Hymn:**  
**"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**  
**UMH #251**

**(Chorus)**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**(Verse 1)**

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

**(Chorus)**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**(Verse 2)**

The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed the Savior's birth.

**(Chorus)**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**(Verse 3)**

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

**(Chorus)**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.**



**Announcements**  
**December 17, 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 Carolyn Brach, "In memory of beloved husband, our dad and pop-pop, Morton R. Brach, Sr". Poinsettias are donated by those listed in the bulletin.

**COOKIE TRAY SALE TODAY!** Pick up delicious home-made Christmas Cookies after service. The cookie sale is a fundraiser for the church.

**A MESSAGE FROM S/PRC CHAIR, MELANIE BOWEN:**

Today is the final day give your donations to show our love and appreciation to our church staff. Donations may be given to Melanie Bowen or place them in an envelope in the offering plate marked "staff gifts". Thank you for your gifts.

**FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY:**

For those of you who plan to fulfill your **2023** pledge, I would appreciate having all contributions mailed to the church office (*Attention: Financial Secretary*), put in the offering plate during church services or done with online giving **prior to Thursday, December 28, 2023**. A final bank deposit of cash/checks will be made the next day. Additionally, I will be completing the final entries into the church's financial management program in order to prepare end-of-year contribution statements. Any money received after the December 28<sup>th</sup> date will be credited for the new year, **2024**. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

**Carol Davison**

**MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS** presents "**Rejoice Greatly**" a celebratory Messiah & More. Come support members of our church as they perform in this special holiday concert **this afternoon at 4:00 p.m.** at the Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank. For more information and ticket information visit **[Monmouthcivicchorus.org](http://Monmouthcivicchorus.org)**.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS / LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP:** Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of prayer and sharing the warmth of one another.

**THE 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JERSEY CARES COAT DRIVE**

The First United Methodist Church of Freehold is collecting new and gently used coats now through Sunday, December 31, 2023. 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. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> and Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



*Join Us for Our Christmas Eve Services:*

*10:00 a.m.*

*4:30 p.m.*

[www.freeholdmethodist.org](http://www.freeholdmethodist.org)

#### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| (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    |                        |

*Poinsettias*  
*December 2023*



**In Memory of:**

**Given by:**

**Our Parents**

**Ed's Son, Keith Curven & Rita's Son, Rob Cress**

**Alan's Mother and Father, and Gail's Father**

**Lucille & Charlie Dickerson**

**Lorraine Heulton & Betty Morrow**

**Joseph LaVilla & The Harns Family**

**Jimmy Kane**

**Our Loving Parents**

**Salvatore & Rebecca Guida**

**The Families of the Closed 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, Bradley Beach**

**Our Loved Ones**

**Our Loved Ones**

**Our Loved Ones**

**Otto Strauss**

**Our Parents & Grandparents**

**Ed & Lynne Beach**

**Ed & Rita Curven**

**The Davala Family**

**Donna Diamant**

**Jane & Gilbert Heulton**

**The Kaiser Family**

**Kathy Kane**

**Joan & Greg Kinney**

**Rebecca Leader**

**Rev. Dr. Wendy Ella May**

**Verl & Joanne McKinney**

**Ray & Anita Ritchie**

**Virginia & George Sologuren**

**Jane Strauss**

**The Wentworth Family**

*Flowers may be picked up following the later Christmas Eve service by those who have donated them. Appreciation is expressed to Gayle Trulli for arranging the Christmas poinsettia orders and receiving the flowers.*

*Poinsettias*  
*December 2023*



**In Honor of:**

**Given by:**

**Gail's Mother**

**Grandsons: Willem, Sebastian, Capel & Gus**

**Our Armed Forces**

**All the Churches of the UMC & The United  
States Methodist Episcopal Orthodox Churches**

**Our Loved Ones**

**Our Loved Ones**

**Our Children, Bryan & Alein**

**Yanghee Jeon & Myung Soon Lee**

**My Children, John, Grace, Diane & Susan**

**The Davala Family**

**Lyn & Don Johnson**

**Joan & Greg Kinney**

**Rev. Dr. Wendy Ella May**

**Verl & Joanne McKinney**

**Ray & Anita Ritchie**

**Gene & Allein Sampieri**

**Sharon Shutzer**

**Kathy Mulholland**

**Memorial Fund**

**In Memory of:**

**Given by:**

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