

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023
4th Sunday of Advent – LOVE
10:00 a.m.**

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Prelude

Welcome: Sharon Shutzer

*Call to Worship: Sharon Shutzer

Leader: Come, worship our God who communicates in many ways!

People: Creator, we are ready to listen.

Leader: God guides us through Scripture, dreams, and conscience.

People: Jesus, we are ready to listen.

Leader: As God spoke in ages past, God speaks still.

People: Spirit, we are ready to listen.

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

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

In the rush of preparation for holiday celebration, we come to this place to be fed by God. We need the peace, hope, joy, and love that this season represents. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to be fed and then to be those who will share with others as you have shared with us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath
The Candle of LOVE
Melanie & Ed Bowen**

*Opening Hymn: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" UMH #218

*Praise Hymn: "Mary, Mary" Avery & Marsh

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 (Skit): Jane Healton & Rev. Christina Zito

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-14 Ed Bowen

*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: "Your Presence Matters" Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: "Emmanuel" Arr. Daniel Semsen
FUMC Choir

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

*Offertory Prayer: (In Unison)

O God of Love, we offer you our tithes and gifts in response to your love and grace. We pray your blessing upon these gifts as well as our efforts to serve you and your children with boundless love. Please grant us your blessing and grow what we give so that your kingdom on earth may be fulfilled through your love. We pray all this in the name of Jesus who taught us to love. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" Trad. English Carol

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" Trad. English Carol

Scripture Passage for Sunday, December 24, 2023

Liturgist: Ed Bowen

Luke 2:8-14

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]

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn:
“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”
UMH #218

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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.

Verse 3

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!

Verse 4

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.

Praise Hymn:
“Mary, Mary”
Avery & Marsh

Mary, Mary,

What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Verse 1

Slaves are we
And looking for a master.
Why don't you call Him Lord?
Let's all call Him Lord.

Mary, Mary,

What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Verse 2

We like our sheep
Need someone to guide us.
Why don't you call Him Shepherd?
Let's all call Him Shepherd.

Mary, Mary,

What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Verse 3

Hungry and poor,
We need someone to save us.
Why don't you call Him Savior?
Let's all call Him Savior.

Mary, Mary,

What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

Verse 4

Kings of the world,
We seek someone to rule us.
Why don't you call Him King?
Let's all call Him King.

Mary, Mary,

What you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?

End

What you gonna call that holy baby?

**Prayer 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.

**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.

**Closing Hymn:
"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"
Traditional English Carol, 18th cent.**

Verse 1

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Verse 2

In Bethlehem in Judah
This blessed Babe was born,
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn:
For which His mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Verse 3

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Verse 4

"Fear not," then said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust Him
From Satan's power and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

(Continued)...

Verse 5

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
The blessed Babe to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Verse 6

And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Savior lay,
They found Him in a manger
Where oxen feed on hay.
His mother, Mary, kneeling down,
Unto the Lord to pray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Verse 7

Now to the Lord sing praise
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 24

10:00 a.m.

Good morning! 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.

JOIN US TODAY AT 4:00 P.M. FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE.

Please note: The church office will be CLOSED Monday December 25 through Monday, January 1st.

The beautiful **POINSETTIAS** are donated by those listed in the bulletin.

REMINDER FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

For those of you who plan to fulfill your **2023** pledge, Carol would appreciate having all contributions mailed to the church office (*Attention: Financial Secretary*), put in the offering plate during service 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, Carol 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 28th date will be credited for the new year, **2024**. Feel free to contact Carol Davison with any questions.

THE 28TH ANNUAL JERSEY CARES COAT DRIVE

We are collecting new and gently used coats now through next **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. 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.

GROCERY CARDS (Acme, Shop Rite & Stop and Shop) will be sold after service.

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:

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 1st UMC, Bradley Beach

Our Loved Ones

Our Loved Ones

Our Loved Ones

Otto Strauss

Our Parents & Grandparents

In Honor of:

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

Given by:

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

Given by:

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

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.