Sunday, December 17, 2023 **GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD** Third Sunday of Advent – Christmas Cantata Prelude Choral Introit Welcome Announcements **Praise Song** Call to Worship & Prayer Leader: Let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath. People: We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Leader: Let us pray. People: Holy God of Joy, as the birth of Your Son, our Savior, is approaching fast, our hearts are filled with joy. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as Your beloved children. And we give You thanks for such a pure joy. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior we pray. Amen. Lighting of the Advent Candles Jon and Peg Rouleau Children's Moment Words and Music by Marty Parks Cantata – Jesus, Our Emmanuel Narrators: Bonnie Wright & Shawn Wright "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" Narration "Jesus, Our Emmanuel" / "Let All Moral Flesh Keep Silent"

Narration

solo: John Williams

"My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord" / "Holy, Holy, Holy" solo: Paula Linza Narration "Christ Is Born, Sing Allelluia" trio: Cindy Curtis, Susan Bell, Carol Parisella Narration "Gloria in Excelsis" Narration "And The Word Became Flesh" Narration "One Name Says It All" Narration "Come to the Light" -solos: Dick Rowley, Dan Nichols "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Narration "O The Glory of Your Presence" **Sharing Joys and Concerns** The People Bring Their Gifts Pastor Sung Ho Lee The baskets will be passed or you may use the UMCL app The People Offer Praise "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" **UMH 95** The People Go into The World Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH 238 (vv. 1, 4) Benediction Postlude