

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**8:30 a.m. Sunday 14 December 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements *(To help us connect, please sign the address pad  
in your pew)*

Selected Carols

Greeting\*\*: Tell the timid to take heart.  
**The Lord our God will come.**  
*(Traditional Monastic Liturgy)*

\*Opening Hymn: 221 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

\*Opening Prayer\*\*: The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you**

In the advent seasons, when the past has fled, unasked, away  
and there is nothing to do but wait,  
**God, shelter us.**

Be our surrounding darkness;

**Be the fertile soil out of which hope springs in due time.**

In uncertain times, help us to greet the dawn and labor on, love on,  
**in faith awaiting your purpose hid in you**  
**awaiting to be born in due time. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath\*\*: (Isaiah 35:10)  
We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our joy.  
May the joyful promise of your presence, O God,  
Make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.  
**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Response: 2090 “Light the Advent Candle” Verse 3

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

**(2)**

Psalter: Page 199 Canticle of Mary Luke 1:47-55 (*Magnificat*)

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

\*Hymn of Preparation: 1960 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 884 “A Statement of Faith  
of the United Church of Canada”  
Joys, Concerns, Prayers

\*The Peace: Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation  
and love. The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15 ff)**  
**All Are Welcome**

**SENDING FORTH**

\*Closing Hymn: 2098 “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

\*Dismissal\*\*: Serve your God with patience and passion;  
Be deliberate in enacting your faith.  
Be steadfast in celebrating the Spirit’s power,  
and may peace be your way in the world.  
**Amen.**  
*Glen E. Rainsley, 20<sup>th</sup> century-*

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\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

\*\*THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP, Copyright  
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