

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 21 December 2025

Fourth 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**: See! The ruler of earth shall come,
**The Lord who will take from us
the heavy burden of our exile.**
(Traditional Monastic Liturgy)

*Opening Hymn: 2092 “Like a child”

* Opening Prayer**:

Ever-present God,
You taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
**Grant that we may ever be found watching
for the coming of your Son.**

Save us from undue love of the world,
**that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord.
and so abide in him,
that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
(Church of Scotland, 20th cent., alt.)

Lighting of the Advent candles**: *(Isaiah 9:6-7)*

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.
**May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God,
make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Response: 211, verse 4

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

(2)

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalter: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *(Insert, alternate leader/people)*

Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

*Hymn of Preparation: 230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

*Affirmation of Faith: 881 The Apostles’ Creed

Joys Concerns, and Prayers

Children’s Time

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

THANKSGIVING

As forgiven and reconciled people,
Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offertory/Offering

*Doxology: “Praise God, from whom All Blessings Flow” 95

*Offertory Prayer: 588 “All Things Come of Thee, O Lord”

*The Lord’s Prayer 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 220 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

*Benediction:

(3)

Family of Faith, God sends you now into the world.

Into service, into struggle, into celebration ---

we go with God, we go with one another.

So be it.

Amen.

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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