

## 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, 20<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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