

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 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

Children’s Time

Joys and Concerns

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15ff)

All Are Welcome

SENDING FORTH

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

*Benediction^:

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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