

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 18 December 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

Greeting: We wait for the word of the Lord
as we wait for the rains
**and our God shall come down upon us
like gentle dew.**

(Traditional Monastic liturgy)

*Praise Choruses: Selected Carols

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.)

*Opening Hymn: 234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Lighting of the Advent Candles*: FOURTH SUNDAY: 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.

(2)

Response: 2090 *(Verse 4 only)* "Light the Advent Candle"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 230 *(Verse 4 only)* "O Little Town of
Bethlehem"

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

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

Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

*Hymn of Preparation: 240 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: "Always"

Affirmation of Faith: 881 "The Apostles' Creed,
Traditional Version"

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

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer
ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

(3)

*Doxology: 204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**:

Eternal God, in your providence you made all ages
a preparation for the kingdom of your Son.

**Make ready our hearts for the brightness of your glory
and the fullness of your blessings
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We offer ourselves and our gifts in his name. Amen.

(The Book of Worship 1944, alt.)

*The Lord's Prayer : 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 219 "What Child Is This"

*Closing Prayer: 202 "(Verse 1 only) "People, Look East"

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude/Going forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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