

Good Evening!  
***North Bend Church***  
*a Global Methodist Congregation*  
Tuesday, December 24, 2024  
*Because God is worthy we worship*

**GATHERING AND WELCOME**

**Prelude**

**COME BEFORE THE LORD**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: All people are welcome here tonight.

**People: We have gathered to hear the story of Jesus' birth.**

Leader: All who walk in darkness,

**People: Come see a great light.**

Leader: All who hope to see God,

**People: Come see the glory of our savior, Jesus Christ.**

Leader: All who are simply waiting to see what's next,

**People: Come see the good news God brings.**

Leader: Rejoice before God in the light and glory of this night.

**People: We rejoice that God's grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

**\*Singing**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH #234

(vs. 1, 2, 3)

**1. O come all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye,  
O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and  
behold him,  
born the  
King of angels;**

***Refrain:***

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**2. True God of true God,  
Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not  
the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the  
Father,  
begotten,  
not created;**

***Refrain:***

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven above!  
Glory to God,  
all glory in  
the highest;**

*Refrain:*

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**PRAY UNTO THE LORD**

**\*Praying Together**

**Holy God, help us pause in the midst of our busyness. Quiet our minds on this Christmas Eve, that we may hear the good news of your gift of Jesus Christ—your gift to a world so in need of hope, peace, joy and love. If we walk in darkness and despair, help us see the great light of your presence. If we wait in hope for the coming of Christ, help us offer hope to those around us. Help us see your glory breaking into our lives, as Mary and shepherds before us saw. In the quiet of this night, may we welcome your peace and favor, through Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Lord. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars, and unrest in the nations like those being tossed by the waves of the sea.

**People: Be watchful at all times for God's Kingdom is near.**

Leader: The powers of the heavens will be shaken at the expectation of the coming of the Lord.

**People: Be watchful at all times for God's Kingdom is near.**

Leader: You will see Christ coming in the clouds with power and glory. When this happens, lift up your heads, because your redemption is close.

**People: Be watchful at all times for God's Kingdom is near.**

Leader: This generation will not pass away until all things are accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will last forever.

**People: Be watchful at all times for God's Kingdom is near.**

Leader: The Lord is coming to make all things new.

**People: Come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

—Light the first Advent Candle—

**Special Music**

*Mary, Did You Know*

Ashley-May Burkhart

## LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

**People: for he has shown favor and redeemed his people.**

Leader: He has raised up a Savior in the house of his servant David,

**People: as spoken on the lips of his holy prophets of old.**

Leader: He has shown mercy to us and remembered his holy covenant.

**People: We will serve him in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives.**

Leader: The tender mercy of God will dawn on high and visit us with salvation.

**People: It will shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.**

Leader: Christ is coming to guide our feet in the way of peace.

**People: Come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

—Light the second Advent Candle—

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)

9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

## LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: God is our salvation! We will trust in him and not be afraid;

**People: The Lord of Salvation is our strength and song!**

Leader: Look up and rejoice! Draw water out of the wells of salvation.

**People: The Lord of Joy is our strength and song!**

Leader: Give thanks to God! Call on his name!

**People: The Lord of Might is our strength and song!**

Leader: Declare his works among the people that his name is exalted!

**People: The Lord of Wisdom is our strength and song!**

Leader: Sing to the Lord, for he has done excellent things! Let this be known in all the earth!

**People: The Lord of Righteousness is our strength and song!**

Leader: Cry aloud and shout, people of God, for Christ, the King of kings, is coming to save us.

**People: Come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

—Light the third Advent Candle—



**\*Singing**

*Away in a Manger*

UMH #217

(vs. 1, 2, 3)

- 1. Away in a manger,  
no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky  
look down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus,  
asleep on the hay.**
- 2. The cattle are lowing,  
the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus,  
no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus,  
look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle  
till morning is nigh.**
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask thee to stay**

close by me forever,  
and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children  
in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven  
to live with thee there.

#### **LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord! My Spirit rejoices in God,  
our Savior. Holy is his name!

**People: Let your face shine upon us, Lord, and we shall be  
saved.**

Leader: For the Mighty One has done great things for us.

**People: Holy is his name!**

Leader: His mercy lasts for generations and generations on  
those who fear him.

**People: Let your face shine upon us, Lord, and we shall be  
saved.**

Leader: He has shown strength with his arm.

**People: He has scattered the proud in the imagination of  
their hearts.**

Leader: He has pulled down tyrants from their thrones.

**People: He has filled the hungry and sent the rich away empty.**

Leader: Holy is his name!

**People: Holy is his name!**

Leader: Stir up your might and come save us! You who are enthroned above the heavens, shine with eternal light.

**People: Let your face shine upon us, Lord, and we shall be saved.**

Leader: Hear the cries and prayers of your people! Wipe away our tears and give us your peace.

**People: Turn to us again, Lord! Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved.**

Leader: The Lord is coming in mercy as he promised to our ancestors.

**People: Come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

—Light the fourth Advent Candle—

## Reading

## Psalms 98 (NIV)

98:1 Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

2 The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

3 He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

4 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;

5 make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,

6 with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

7 Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

8 Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

9 let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

## **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light has shined on those who lived in the land of the shadow of death.

**People: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his name!**

Leader: He has lifted the heavy burden and broken the sword of oppression. The weapons used for battle will be burned up as fuel for the fire.

**People: Proclaim his salvation from day to day! Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.**

Leader: For a child is born to us. A son is given to us; and the government will be on his shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**People: The Lord made the heavens and the earth. Honor and majesty are before him. Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Leader: His Kingdom of righteousness and peace will have no end. David's throne will be upheld in righteousness from this time on and forevermore.

**People: Bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

**Worship the Lord in holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "God reigns."**

Leader: The Lord has come to judge the earth in righteousness and truth.

**People: O come, let us adore him.**

—Light the Christ Candle—

**New Testament Reading**

Luke 2:1-14 (NIV)

2:1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

**Proclaiming the Gospel**

*What Were You Expecting?*

## **Christmas Prayer**

### **Candlelight Ceremony**

Pastor Ed will take the Light of Christ from the Christ Candle of the Advent Wreath and walk down the center aisle lighting those candles at the end of the pew. Please pass your light to the person next to you ... remembering the lit candle remains upright while the unlit candle is tipped to receive its light.

**\*Singing**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

UMH #239

(vs. 1, 2, 3, 4)

**1. Silent night,  
holy night,  
all is calm,  
all is bright  
round yon virgin  
mother and child.  
Holy infant,  
so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**



**2. Silent night,  
holy night,  
shepherds quake  
at the sight;  
glories stream  
from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing  
Alleluia!**

**Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!**

**3. Silent night,  
holy night,  
Son of God,  
love's pure light;  
radiant beams from  
thy holy face  
with the dawn  
of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**4. Silent night,**

**holy night,  
wondrous star,  
lend thy light;  
with the angels  
let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!**

**GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD**

**\*Receiving the Blessing**

**Postlude**