

Good Morning!

# *North Bend Church*

*a Global Methodist Congregation*

Sunday, December 22, 2024

*Because God is worthy we worship*

## **GATHERING AND WELCOME**

### **Prelude**

### **Announcements**

**POINSETTIAS:** Thank you to all those who purchased poinsettias, which are part of our Christmas display. Your names and dedications are listed on an insert inside today's bulletin. Please take your poinsettias home after Tuesday's 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

**FRANK'S TREE:** Donations to light Frank's Tree this year will be split between TRAM, our local food pantry, and Hope Restored India, Laura Meyers' ministry. Each \$10 contribution lights one colored bulb. Once all those are lit, representing \$200, a white bulb is turned on. After we reach \$2,000, the entire tree is lit up.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY:** We will publish an updated church directory in January. Please review the lists at the back of the church to add, confirm or update your name, address, phone number, email address and birthday.

*(Are there any other Announcements?)*

## **COME BEFORE THE LORD**

### **\*Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: All through this season of Advent, we have encountered Hope, Peace and Joy.

**People: Today Belief and Love are the theme.**

Leader: Today we will hear the story of surprising commitment.

**People: We will learn of Mary and God's wonderful love.**

Leader: Today we will be challenged to believe in all that God can do.

**People: Open our hearts, Lord, that we may be ready for your love. Amen.**

**\*Singing**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH #234

(vs. 1, 2, 3, 4)

**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.**

**4. See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks,  
draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our  
joyful footsteps;**

***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<sup>1</sup>**

**Lord, be with us as we hear about Mary and the wondrous news she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

**Joys & Concerns**

**Silent & Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Anthem**

**Blessing of Offerings**

**\*Singing**      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*      UMH #95

**Praise God, from whom  
all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures  
here below;  
praise him above,  
ye heavenly host;  
praise Father,  
Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

**Reading the Scripture**

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

1:26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel  
Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a

descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

37 For no word from God will ever fail."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Proclaiming the Gospel**

*There's Something About Mary*

**RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD**

**\*Singing**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

UMH #218

(vs. 1, 2, 4)

**1. It came upon  
the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending  
near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth,  
good will to men,  
from heaven’s  
all gracious King.”  
The world in solemn  
stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.**



**2. Still through the  
cloven skies they come  
with peaceful  
wings unfurled,  
and still their  
heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad  
and lowly plains,  
they bend on  
hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its  
Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.**

**4. For lo! the days  
are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the  
ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace  
shall over all the earth**

**its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world  
send back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

**GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD**

**\*Receiving the Blessing**

**Postlude**

**\*Singing**

*The Blessing*

*Kari Jobe*

**The Lord bless you  
and keep you  
Make His face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His  
face toward you  
And give you peace  
Amen  
Amen, Amen  
Amen  
Amen, Amen**

**May His favor**

**be upon you**

**And a thousand generations**

**And your family**

**and your children**

**And their children,**

**and their children**

**Amen**

**Amen, Amen**

**Amen**

**Amen, Amen**

*<sup>1</sup>From "Worship Connection: December 22, 2024," by Nancy C. Townley, [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com)*