



3rd Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

UMC in Wayne

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Join us on Zoom: [Meeting ID: 823 9591 4126 Passcode: 092827](https://umcwayne.org/join)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 126)

Leader: What are your dreams, people of God?

All: To be filled with laughter; to cry with joy, not with sorrow.

Leader: What are your hopes, people of God?

All: To be free of the chains that bind us; to shout with thanksgiving, not with anguish.

Leader: Rejoice, people of God; here and now,

All: God makes our hopes and dreams come true.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Leader: Hope is assertive, and peace is subversive. But joy? Joy is rebelliously provocative. How dare joy make its way into our dreary, despairing world? How dare joy show up in all its flashiness—it even gets a pink candle for crying out loud! How dare we, in the midst of war and hate and despair, deep division and grief and violence, come together and rejoice? How dare some shepherds start speaking of good news and the heavenly host declaring peace on earth in the midst of a violent Roman occupation? But if they did it, why can't we? Why can't we sing for joy that God is breaking open into our world again? Why can't we be rebellious against the politicians and news anchors and doomsday sayers that there is joy for the world—no—joy to the world! We light this candle because God is provoking us to sing for joy, to sing and dance and laugh so hard we have tears, because there is peace and hope in this world.

Light the third candle

All: God of joy, call us to sing, remind us to dance, tickle us into fits of laughter, because You are in our world and in our lives and doing something new, right now. Death and despair have nothing on You, and we rejoice in You, our Savior. Amen.

HYMN

The Angel Gabriel

see insert

THE BASKET *Building a House for the Lord – Joy*

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

MESSAGE

Singing For Joy

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

UMH #216

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORSHIPING GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

OFFERTORY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs. 5 & 6

UMH #211

Doxology

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Precious Lord, amid the twinkling lights, the bustling shoppers, and the traffic jams, we see you. We see you in the smile of a child who is sitting on Santa's lap and in the face of a homeless person who is standing on a street corner. We see you and are amazed by your abiding presence. You are always with us! We offer you these gifts in gratitude for your presence. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH #221

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



[Our Annual Cookie Sale and, by popular demand,](#)

[the UMC in Wayne Pasta Sauce Sale is Today!](#)



Please join us at 4:30 this afternoon for Lessons and Carols! 

***Thank you for financially supporting our ministry.
We offer many ways to give:***

In the sanctuary or by mail.

Online at www.umcwayne.org

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/umcwgiving>

Text "GIVING" to 973-447-3223

QR Code:



ANNOUNCEMENTS December 17, 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS December 18 - 24

Monday December 18th

AA mtg @ 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall (Room 8)

Tuesday December 19th

Karate @ 4pm in the underground

Bible Study @ 7pm in Pastor's Office

Wednesday December 20th

Bible Study @ 12pm in the pastor's office BYO Lunch

Karate @ 4pm in the underground

Thursday December 21st

Karate @ 4pm in the underground

Open House in the Sanctuary for the Longest Night. 6pm – 8pm

Friday December 22nd

Friday Morning Prayer @ 7pm on Facebook

Sunday December 24th

4th Sunday of Advent Love Worship @ 10am

Family Christmas Eve Service with Parish Drive @ 4:30pm

Lessons and Carols Service @ 7:00pm

Prayer and Devotion on Friday Mornings
at 7am on Facebook.

Our Facebook page is: UMC.Wayne

Join Pastor Ninabeth for this 30 minute gathering.
You do not have to be a Facebook user to participate.

The United Methodist
Church in Wayne
invites you to a
**Longest Night
Open Sanctuary**
Thursday December 21st
6pm ~ 8pm

Come, light a candle, pray,
and sit as long as you like.

A booklet containing prayers, poems, ritual,
meditations, and scripture
will be available in the Narthex.

Quiet peaceful music will be playing throughout the evening.



CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24

4th Sunday of Advent Worship @ 10am

Christmas Eve Family Service
with Parish Drive @ 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols @ 7:00pm



The words and music in our liturgy, hymns, and songs are by:

Advent Candle Lighting liturgy is adapted from Rev. Mindi.

The Angel Gabriel, Charles Edgar Pettman, Sabine Baring-Gould CCLI Song #2402770 Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. CCLI Song # 31982 John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore
Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

In the Bleak Midwinter, CCLI Song # 294736 Christina Georgina Rossetti | Gustav Theodore Holst
Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

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