



4th Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024

UMC in Wayne

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT

Panis Angelicus

Jubilation Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY

Leader: You are invited to rise in body and/or spirit and sing together “We’re on our Way”.

See Insert: “We’re On Our Way” replace the word “hope” with the word “love”

Leader: The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

All: We are on our way to more love.

Leader: So many are in need of grace, in need of loving acceptance.

All: We are a people who can bring Good News.

Leader: Stories of generosity are markers and signs that goodness is the nature of God.

All: God’s light goes before us; we are not alone.

Light the candle of Love

See Insert: “We’re On Our Way” replace the word “hope” with the word “love”

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, your presence grows within us. Open our hearts to receive, to honor and to nourish the holy child, that Christ may be born in us by your grace. Amen.

THE CHILDREN SHOW US THE WAY

See insert: “Little donkey, little donkey”

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Trusting in god’s tender mercy, let us open ourselves in honesty towards God.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Holy and Loving God, we pray for hearts and minds to open wide to merciful acts in your name. Too often, we clench our fists in fear that what we have will not be enough for us. Give us the humility to make more room. Call us to a “generosity of grace.” Call us to be generous—not to a fault—but to a future where all have a place and a home where they are deeply loved. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus, the Christ, your Love Incarnate. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Let this be a marker of assurance that we are moving in a faithful direction:
God is with us every step of our way toward the Love of Bethlehem.
Jesus is being born into our lives even now.
The Spirit is transforming us in this place.

GOSPEL READING Luke 2: 1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

MESSAGE

A Humble Gift of Love

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH #230

GUIDED BY THE PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

We begin our prayer time today remembering that when we need guidance the most, we can turn to God in prayer. Today we are guided by Joy.

See insert: “Lead me, guide me, along the way.”

God of Love, we come to you today longing for your presence in our lives and with all those who suffer—in body, mind, or spirit. We pray this day for...

God of Love, we come to you today so deeply grateful for celebrations, triumphs, and even small steps toward the lives we seek and the world we desire. We pray this day for...

Holy God, we know you are near. We know that every step along the way to Bethlehem in this Advent season is a step closer to renewed life in Jesus, the Christ. We know that your Spirit resides within us, growing day by day into the fullness of Love. In this moment, we pause in silence, marking your presence with awe and asking you to fill us, guide us, along our journey.

Moment of Silence

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.

GIFTS ALONG THE WAY

OFFERTORY

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

UMH #211

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free,
And conquer death's deep misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thy justice here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. Use these offerings to further your kingdom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring peace and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

UMH #218

BLESSING FOR THE JOURNEY

POSTLUDE

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

**Please join us as we continue our worship
with food and conversation in fellowship hall**

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 23rd-29th 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday December 23rd

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

Tuesday December 24th Christmas Eve

Family Candlelight Service with Parish Drive @ 4:30pm

Candlelight Service with Holy Communion @ 7:00pm

Friday December 27th

Prayer and Devotion @ 7am on Facebook

Sunday December 29nd

1st Sunday of Christmas @10am



To Brighten our Sanctuary at Christmas!

In Honor of our Grandsons, Sean & Aidan

**In Memory of our parents Jim & Dot Creamer and Paul & Dottie Atherton
Don & Marilyn Creamer – 4**

In Honor of my 14 nieces. In Honor of Michael, Robert and Debra Devos

John & Dianne DeVos – 2

In Honor of our Sons, Hunter, Logan and Chase

Nicole and Shane Force -3

In Memory of Esther Fredericks-Domes,

Joseph Fredericks, & Henry Domes

Jan Fredericks - 1

In Memory of Charles Mougalian, David B. Ingerman and Our Parents

Lois Mougalian – 3

In Memory of Charles G. Mougalian, beloved Bapa and Father

In Memory of David B. Ingerman, beloved Husband and Father

Lori, Alex and Dylan Ingerman -2

In Memory of Loved Ones

Robert & Nancy Kinch – 2

In Memory of Jesse Krum

In Memory of Etta & John Smith

Margaret Krum – 2

In Memory of Charlie Lehner

Barbara Lehner – 1

In Memory of Our Loved Ones and Mom

Liz Slevin- 2



In Memory of Loved Ones

Janet Melone – 1

In Memory and Honor of Family and Friends

Jennifer Schiffrin-4

In Memory of Santos and Dorothea Penin

In Memory of Gladys Jacobus

Linda M. Penin – 2

In Memory of our Granny - Evelyn Stephens and Nancy Wagner

The Flores Family – 1

In Memory of Our Parents and Beloved Sister in- Law, Jane

Joe & Liz Tible – 1

In Honor of The Monroe Family

In Memory of Mackenzie Jennings

Bruce and Dawn Monroe-2

In Memory of our Loved Ones

Paul and Gail Papadopoulos-1

In Memory of Jane and Wayne Shortman and Ralph and Millie Jackson

Richard Jackson-2

In Memory of Our Parents, Grandparents and Aunt

Pastor Ninabeth and Family-2

In Honor of Our Parents and Dear Friends

In Memory of Family and Friends

Paul Jenny and Linda Faulkner- 2



THE LEGEND AND SYMBOLISM OF THE POINSETTA

How the poinsettia and Christmas became linked centers around a bit of Mexican folklore involving a poor girl named Pepita. In the legend, Pepita had no present to offer baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve service. As she walked to church, she noticed weeds growing alongside the road. She gathered a bouquet of weeds (some accounts say she did this at the urging of an angel). When Pepita laid her bouquet at the feet of the Christ Child, the weeds burst into bright red flowers. From that night on, the poinsettia was known as “Flores de Noche Buena,” or “Flowers of the Holy Night.”

Symbolically, we have Jesus’ life story in one plant. The leaves symbolize the star that led the Wise Men to the newborn Jesus, the red leaves are a reminder of the blood of Christ shed during His crucifixion and the white leaves represent Christ’s purity.



Our Christmas poinsettias are given to the glory of God!

You are welcome to take your poinsettia home with you at the conclusion of the 7pm Christmas Eve Service.

On the Way to Bethlehem

Advent & Christmas Worship Services

Sunday December 1st @ 10am Rome: A Place of Longing (Hope)

Sunday December 8th @ 10am Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting (Peace)

Sunday December 15th @ 10am Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity (Joy)

Sunday December 22nd @ 10am Bethlehem: A Place of Humility (Love)

Tuesday December 24th @ 4:30pm and 7:00pm The Manger: A Place of Care

Sunday December 29th @ 10am Persia: A Place of Return

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

Children Show the Way is adapted from the Worship Design Studio
"Panis Angelicus", written by Cesar Franck, and arranged for bells by Julie Turner.
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