

***United Presbyterian Church  
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December 17, 2023

Welcome and Outreach Announcements

Prelude                      Silent Night                      Joy to the World                      Bell Choir

Lighting the Advent Candle                      John and Linda Progar

...God of love, we were made in joy. May we live that way.

**All: We light a candle for joy. May it light the way.**

\*Gathering Song                      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel                      88  
**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*Call to Confession

Kathryn Dunatov, Lay Reader

\*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing? You have given us the gift of your Spirit; why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us? You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself; why, then, do we ignore what we have heard from**

**you? You have sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?**

**Forgive us. Restore us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

**\*Gloria Patri   Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.**

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

|           |           |            |
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| Scripture | Psalm 126 | See Insert |
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|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Special Music | Advent Noel | Chancel Choir |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|

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| Scripture | John 1:6-8, 19-28 | See Insert |
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| Message | What's In A Name? | Rev. Edward Dunn |
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| <b>*Responding Song</b><br><b>O little town of Bethlehem,</b><br><b>how still we see thee lie!</b><br><b>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep</b><br><b>the silent stars go by.</b><br><b>Yet in thy dark streets shineth</b><br><b>the everlasting light;</b><br><b>the hopes and fears of all the years</b><br><b>are met in thee tonight.</b> | <b>O Little Town of Bethlehem</b> | <b>121</b> |
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**For Christ is born of Mary  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,**

but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

Prayers of the People

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Receiving Our Offering

Mary's Boy Child  
Eric Arvidson, Billy Burke, Woody Johnson

**\*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**

**\*Sending Song** Prepare the Way, O Zion

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Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.  
Refrain:  
O blest is Christ who came  
in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding.  
Refrain:  
O blest is Christ who came

in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace,  
and tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing,  
their adoration voicing.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came  
in God's most holy name.

\*Blessing

Postlude

Mark Allebach