

# Elm Grove United Methodist Church



December 18, 2022

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Prelude

*“A Peaceful Silent Night”*  
*Chancel Choir (11:00)*

by R.E. Schram

*Gathering Words*

Light has dawned and God’s promised restoration is at hand.  
Glory to God in the highest. God is with us!

Candle Lighting

*One:* Advent is a time to praise.

***All:* Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

*One:* During Advent we remember God’s past faithfulness.

***All:* Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

*One:* During Advent we remember God’s present goodness.

***All:* Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

*One:* During Advent we remember God’s future promises.

***All:* Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Lighting the Advent Candle

*Congregational Singing*

*"We Wait in Hope" © 2008*

**We praise with hope for the morning Light, for the love of Christ to illuminate the night.**

**We praise with joy for the Savior's birth; we praise with hope for peace on earth, peace on earth.**

\*Hymn

*"Once in Royal David's City"*

UMH #250

\*Opening Prayer

**Radiant Morning Star, you are both guidance and mystery.**

**Visit our rest with disturbing dreams, and our journeys with strange companions.**

**Grace us with the hospitality to open our hearts and homes to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom bearing profound and unusual gifts. Amen.**

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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.**

Offering of Gifts, Prayers, & Tithes

*You may mail in your offering or drop it in our locked mailbox that is to the right of our front glass doors.*

Special Music

*"Only a Baby Came"*  
*Jane Gracey (8:30)*

by N. Sleeth

*"A Christmas Laudamus"*  
*Chancel Choir (11:00)*

by L. Dengler

Presentation of our Gifts

\*Doxology

*"What Gift Can We Bring"*

UMH #87, v. 3

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Giver of life and love, receive these gifts as early Christmas gifts— gifts for all who will be touched and supported by the ministries of this church.**

**Bless our offerings of treasure, time, and talent, that we may be blessings of your presence, active in service to a world in need of your love and grace. Be with us, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Preparation

*“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine”*

TFWS #2099

“Let’s Talk” Time

\*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Message

*“Are you ready for Christmas?”*

Rev. Debra Dague

Prayer of Confession

**Shepherding God, guide us back to the paths of your promise.**

**When we doubt, restore our trust.**

**When we fear, restore our courage.**

**When we feel alone, restore our awareness of your presence.**

**Help us be a Christmas people— a people who hear when the angels sing.**

**Help us be an Easter people— a people who trust the promise of new life.**

**Help us be an Emmanuel people— a people who believe in your constant presence.**

**In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

Do not be afraid, dear friends.

God is with us, now and forevermore.

Christ’s grace is ours, today and always.

Emmanuel. Emmanuel. God is with us now.

\*Hymn

*“Angels from the Realm of Glory”*

UMH #220

\*Closing Prayer

God in heaven, we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises and offer our praise to you. **Amen.**

\*Postlude

Anita Chops

*“The United Methodist Hymnal”* © 1989

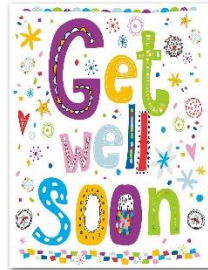
*“The Abingdon Worship Annual 2013”* © 2012

*“The Abingdon Worship Annual 2016”* © 2015

*“Worship & Song”* © 2011

*“We Wait in Hope”* © 2008

**For pastoral care during Pastor Cindy's absence, please contact  
Rev. Neil Leftwich  
or  
Rev. Debra Dague.**



If you would like to send Cindy a card, please send it to the parsonage and someone will get it to her. If you need the address, contact Molly in the office.

## MISSION OF THE MONTH



**Warm Winter Clothing Items  
Hats, mittens, scarves, long underwear**

Not ready to attend in-person worship,  
but still want to help out our mission group?  
You can mail in monetary donations to the church anytime,  
just mark the memo line of your check "Mission Group".



December 22-January 2



December 18th - [Blue Christmas Service - 7:00pm](#)

December 24th - [Christmas Eve Service - 7:00pm](#)

December 25th - **ONE Worship Service at 10:00am**  
(No Sunday School classes)



January 1, 2023  
**ONE Worship Service**  
10:00am  
(No Sunday School Classes)