

Elm Grove United Methodist Church



December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Prelude

Anita Chops

**Call to Worship*

One: Come, let us magnify God in word and deed.

***All:* God is doing so many marvelous things.**

One: Come, share in God's dream for us and for the world.

***All:* We come to hear and to learn and to be prepared for the task ahead.**

One: May this time of worship lead us onto God's Holy Highway.

Come, let's dream, and then let's do.

Candle Lighting

One: Advent is a time to prepare.

***All:* Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight the way for our God.**

One: During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

***All:* Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight the way for our God.**

One: During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

***All:* Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight the way for our God.**

One: During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

***All:* Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight the way for our God.**

One: During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

***All:* Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight the way for our God.**

Lighting the Advent Candle

Congregational Singing

"We Wait in Hope" © 2008

**We prepare in hope for the morning Light, for the love of Christ to illuminate the night.
We prepare with joy for the Savior's birth; we prepare in hope for peace on earth, peace on earth.**

*Hymn

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

UMH #218

*Opening Prayer

**God of justice, healing, and love, we come this morning in this season of waiting and longing and hope: to listen for your voice, to hear your call, and to see transformation.
May this time of worship strengthen our resolve to live lives of justice and radical love.
May this time of fellowship give us the courage to do more than hear about our world being turned upside down, but to joyfully participate in that turning.
Come, O Come, Emmanuel. 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

"Prepare"
Chancel Choir (11:00)

by L. Larson

Presentation of our Gifts

*Doxology

"What Gift Can We Bring"

UMH #87, v. 4

*Prayer of Dedication

Dreaming God, you have set before us a vision of what can and should be for your world and for your people.

Use these gifts of money and resources to bring your vision to reality.

We offer ourselves and our work, as embodiments of the promise, the vision and the pledge to bring your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

*Hymn of Preparation

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH #204

“Let’s Talk” Time

Hebrew Bible Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Message

Doug Whitecotton

Prayer of Confession

God of the Holy Way, we see the world as it is, and despair in doing anything about it. There will always be wars. There will always be injustice. There will always be pain and suffering.

Yes, Jesus worked miracles, but that was him, and that was then.

Where is the hope now?

Help us catch your vision, your dream for the world— blossoming abundantly.

Take us from despair to hope, and from hope to action.

Let us live the song of Mary. Let us preach the actions of Jesus. Let us embody the prophecy of Isaiah.

Take from us our weak resignation to the evils we deplore.

Help us realize that with you, all things are possible. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God says to those who are fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear!

God is with us no matter what.

The time is coming when all will know joy and gladness, when sorrow and sighing will flee away.

*Hymn

“Hail to the LORD’S Anointed”

UMH #203, v.1,3,4

*Closing Prayer

God in heaven, as we continue our Advent journey, help us to be people who wait for you, watch for you, and through your Spirit be prepared for you.

Continue to shine your light in our lives as we look at all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do. **Amen.**

*Postlude

Anita Chops

“The United Methodist Hymnal” © 1989

“The Abingdon Worship Annual 2013” © 2012

“The Abingdon Worship Annual 2016” © 2015

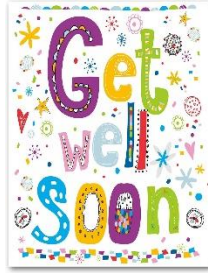
“We Wait in Hope” © 2008

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 - Worship Services at 8:30am & 11:00am
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)