

# Elm Grove United Methodist Church



**December 17, 2023**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Welcome  
Announcements

## *Gathering Words*

Listen to words of promise and hope and share the great good news: God is not distant or uncaring, but moves with loving power to meet us as we meet.

Prelude

Anita Chops

Advent Candle Lighting  
Hymn

*“Christ, Be Our Light!”*

on screen

Litany

*Leader:* Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

***All:* We stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD, repeat them in our day!**

*Leader:* Grant us vision to behold your glory.

***All:* We stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD, repeat them in our day!**

*Leader:* Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

***All:* We stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD, repeat them in our day!**

*Leader:* Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

**All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD, repeat them in our day!**

*Leader:* For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

**All: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

Lighting the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> candles of Advent

*Congregation Sings* (on screen)

\*Hymn

*“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”*

UMH #240

\*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 the turning. Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.**

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The LORD’S Prayer

UMH #895

**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

Special Music

*“Innkeeper”*  
*Anita Chops & David Waddell*

by R. Emerson  
(8:30)

*“Waiting for a King”*  
*Chancel Choir*

by J. Martin  
(11:00)

Presentation of our Gifts

\*Doxology

*"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"*

TFWS #2195

\*Prayer of Dedication

**God of peace, you have restored our hope and sanctified our dreams.**

**May this offering express the joy we feel for the gift of your salvation.**

**May our gifts reflect our wonder and gratitude for being clothed in the garments of salvation and the robes of righteousness.**

**May our tithes and our very lives help restore the dreams of the downhearted, and fill the hungry with good things. Amen.**

\*Hymn

*"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*

UMH #218

Dismissal for Children's Church (ages infant to 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

11:00am service

Scripture

Galatians 2:20-25

Message

*"God has a gift for you this Christmas"*

Rev. Debra Dague

Prayer of Confession

**In the stress and strain of life, when worry devours our strength, burdens are hard to bear, and floodwaters tug at our feet, give us, Compassionate God, solid ground to stand on, helping hands for heavy loads, and when we least expect it, the peace that surpasses understanding, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

God has promised to strengthen weak hands and steady feeble knees.

God has called us to be strong and to put fear aside, for God redeems us.

God has promised us that everlasting joy will be ours, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

\*Hymn

*"Joy to the World"*

UMH #246

\*Benediction

God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory.

We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today.

We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled.

Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

\*Postlude

Anita Chops

*"The United Methodist Hymnal" © 1989*

*"The Abingdon Worship Annual 2013" © 2012*

*"The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023" © 2022*

*"Advent Christmas and Epiphany" © 2008*

*"Christ, Be Our Light!" by Bernadette Farrell and Joel Raney © 2013*

### *December Worship Schedule*

*17th - 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service*

*24th - 10:30am Communion Service  
7:00pm Christmas Cantata Service*

*31st - 10:30am Sunday Worship Service*

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH**



**House of the Carpenter  
And Street Moms**

*Hats, Scarves & Gloves*



You may drop your donation at the church during regular office hours or Sunday mornings.

Monetary donations are always welcome,  
just mark the memo line of your check "Mission Group".

Nancy King is making church t-shirts  
again.

If you would like to order a t-shirt,  
please sign-up at the Welcome Desk in  
the Narthex.



We are still in need of volunteers for  
Children's Church/Nursery Care

Please choose a Sunday and sign-up  
at the Welcome Desk.

We appreciate your willingness to help grow your church.



**Dec. 20 - Jan. 2**