

*Unison Prayer

God of the impossible and unlikely, God of pregnant old women and virgins, You turn our conventional world upside down, where the hungry are fed, and arrogant rich are turned away. Instill in us unthinkable marvels. Make us pregnant with wonder through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Children's Time

One: And, Jesus said... **ALL: Let the children come!**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One: ... What might God be calling forth from us?

ALL: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

One: ... from God's love for ALL creation.

Hymn "Prepare the Way of the Lord" 2x (no round)

UMH 207

Handbell Anthem "Coventry Carol"

arr. Lloyd Larson

Scripture Reading

Focus texts: Micah 5:2-4 (MSG),
Luke 1:39-45 (UMH 199 - Canticle of Mary below)

Canticle of Mary (UMH 199)

R: [Sung Response] The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.

One: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

ALL: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.

One: From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

ALL: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is the name of the Lord, whose mercy is on those who fear God from generation to generation.

One: The arm of the Lord is strong, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

ALL: God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

One: God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich empty away.

ALL: God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant, remembering the promise of mercy, the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children for ever.

R: [Sung Response] The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.

Response

One: The Word of God for ALL of us, God's people.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Promise"

RESPONDING TOGETHER

(please text prayers to 414-378-4012)

Response Chorus "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" vs. 3

UMH 216

Sharing Aloud Our Joys and Concerns

Centering Song "The First Song of Isaiah"

FWS 2030

Pastoral Prayer for the Cares of the People

The Lord's Prayer ALL Together

UMH 895

*Invitation to Giving Action

We commit our time, talent, treasure, willingness to serve and gift of witness out into the world as we bring our offerings. We pass the peace in an effort to see one another as community.

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: And, also with you!

*Doxology for Advent

TUNE: The First Noel Irr. with refrain

Praise Go-d from whom a-ll ble--ssings flow.

Pra-ise Go-d all crea-tures he-re below.

Praise Go-d a--bove ye- hea-venly host.

Praise Fa-ther, So-n, and Ho-ly Ghost.

No-el-, No-el, No-el--, No-el-.

Born is the Ki-ng of I-srael.

*Blessing Prayer

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to Your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further Your kin-dom 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 light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray, let it be so.

*Responsive Sending Forth

One: Go, now, in the blessing of God's promise.

ALL: We go in the assurance that our expectant joy will find its fulfillment in the God who was, who is, and who will be with us always.

*Our Charge

*Final Blessing Respond "Yes!" after each blessing phrase and join in ALL together for the final phrase: "This day and in every day to come!"

*Closing Hymn "Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates" vs. 1, 2 UMH 213

*Postlude "Bell Carol" Traditional Ukrainian Carol

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m.

Lectionary readings: Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55

**Need hearing assistance? Hearing assist devices are available.
Visit our tech room and someone will help you.**

Thank you for worshipping with us at Our Lord's!



Scan this QR code using the camera on your phone to contribute a gift to support our church and its ministries. Explore more of our website by clicking the "Our Lord's" header at the top of the page. There you'll find past worship services, information regarding our various ministries, and much more!

Highlighting, with gratitude, these servant leaders for today...

Wendi Haubert, Izzy Veit, Dave Smith, Rebecca Landgraf, Pat Mehring, Kathy Depies, Decker Henninger, Karen Haubert, Sue Schulkers, Don Mains, and our handbell choir (Pat Mehring, Chris Clements, Pat Garrigues, Karen Haubert, Terry Chipman, Keith Chipman, Sue Schulkers, Lois McGarry, Becky Perreault, Lynda McDowell

CBA: Wendi Haubert/finance@ourlordsumc.org
Office Administrator: Tabitha Manning/office@ourlordsumc.org
Pastor: Kelly Fowler/pastorkelly@ourlordsumc.org

*Find us on Facebook and watch our live-streamed Sunday services at www.facebook.com/OurLordsUMC/
*Visit us on our website at www.ourlordsumc.org

Worship resource: **Ministry Matters**, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>, **Discipleship Ministries**, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>

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Our Lord's United Methodist Church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Potawatomi, Sioux (Ochethi Sakowin), Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, and Peoria people's.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024
10:30 a.m.**

OUR LORD'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
There's a Place for You Here



GATHERING TOGETHER

For Today

There is an invitation this week—an ongoing invitation to the party that is the kingdom of God, the celebration to be of the Realm of God. What is clear in our texts this week is the incredible news that God has chosen to include us in this process.

Prelude "Mary's Little Boy Child" by Jester Hairston

Welcome

One voice: Good morning, Church! I see you!

ALL voices: I am here!

Graceful Engagement

*Call to Worship

One: Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

ALL: We wait as people of God's promise.

One: The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

ALL: We listen as people of God's promise.

One: Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God's good news into the world.

ALL: We follow as people of God's promise.

One: This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

ALL: God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

*Opening Hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" vs. 1, 2

UMH 216