



**COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

REACH, GROW, SEND WITH GOD'S LOVE

**December 13, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent
A Service of Lessons and Carols**

Prayers for all of us during this time we are physically separated one from another.

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Riva

Silent Meditation *(Let us all be in silent meditation as the candles are lit)*

Prelude *“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”*

arr. Mark Hayes

Hymn #237 *“Sing We Now of Christmas”*

v. 1 Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

refrain: Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

v. 2 Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest,
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest.”

refrain:

v. 3 In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
seated by the manger, watching the holy child.

refrain:

v. 4 From the eastern country came the kings afar,
bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.

refrain:

v. 5 Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
there was never a stable so like paradise.

refrain:

The Bidding Prayer

Pastor Riva

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all peoples and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words that Christ himself taught us.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor Riva

Our (Creator/God/Mother/Father*) in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**Please use whichever name connects you deeply to the Divine.*

Hymn of Preparation #2090 "Advent Song"

v. 3 Light the Advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;
angels singing "Peace on Earth" at the blessed Savior's birth.

refrain Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Jessica, Chloe and Logan Perez

(Reference: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 & John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Reader One: We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

Reader One: We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-8

Pastor Nancy

Leader: To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is coming back, and bringing the exiles home! The Word of God

Response: Thanks be to God.

Carol (UMC 211): O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1-3)

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, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Second Lesson

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Fred Carter

Leader: The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come. The Word of God

Response: Thanks be to God.

Carol (UMC 204): *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Third Lesson

Zechariah 9:9-10

Mary Tholkes

Leader: To a nation grown weary of war and weapons, God promises a king who will establish a reign of peace. The Word of God

Response: Thanks be to God.

Carol (UMC 196): *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

v. 1 Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the world thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

v. 2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Fourth Lesson

Haggai 2:6-9

Rod Bruns

Leader: The prophet Haggai promises to God's people a temple even more glorious than the temple of old. The Word of God

Response: Thanks be to God.

Carol (UMC 220): *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

v. 1 Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

refrain Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King.

v. 2 Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light.

refrain

v. 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star.

refrain

v. 4 Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

refrain

Fifth Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-6

Anna Lexvold

Leader: The prophet Isaiah announces the renewal both of the land and of God's people on the coming day of redemption. The Word of God

Response: Thanks be to God.

Carol (UMC 216): *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

- v. 1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.
- v. 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
when half spent was the night.
- v. 3 O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

Sixth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Chloe Perez

Leader: The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end. The Word of God

Response: Thanks be to God.

Carol (UMC 215): *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

- v. 1 To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.
"Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news,
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.
- v. 2 "For you are highly favored by God the Lord of al,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest,
you are most blest, most blessed, God choose you, you are blest!"
- v. 3 But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.
- v. 4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."
- v. 5 "How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly, your child will be God's child."
- v. 6 As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.
"So be it; I am ready according to your word."

Seventh Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

James Bordewick

Leader: Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God. The Word of God

Response: Thanks be to God.

Carol (UMC 209): *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

- v. 1 Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

- v. 2 Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.
- v. 3 Oh prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Prayer

Pastor Riva

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings, and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

Benediction

Pastor Riva

Humayo kayong dala ang kapayapaan, maging matapang, panghawakan ang kung ano ang mabuti, iwasan ang masama at kasamaan, palakasin ang pinanghihinaan ng loob, agapayan ang nanghihina, tulungan ang mga pinahihirapan, ikarantal ang bawat isa, ibigin at panglinkuran ang Dyos, magalak sa kapangyarihan ng Banal na Espiritu. At ang pagpapala ng Dyos na ating magulang, ng anak na si Jesu Kristo, at ng Banal na Espiritu nawa ang suma inyo at manatili sa inyo sa lahat ng panahon.

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always.

Response: Amen.

Postlude

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

arr. David Cherwien

Worship Participants

Advent Candle Lighting: Jessica, Chloe and Logan Perez

Readers: Pastor Nancy, Fred Carter, Mary Tholkes,
Rod Bruns, Anna Lexvold, Chloe Perez,
James Bordewick

Musicians: Naomi Jones, soprano
Kari Trench, alto
Paul Dragsten, trumpet

Worship Team

Lead Pastor: Pastor Riva Tabelisma

Teaching Elder: Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud

Music: Dan Ritter

Audio & Video Recording: Andy Bixler

Video Editing: James Bordewick

Coming up this week:

Sunday, December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent – Lessons & Carols

- 9:00 a.m. [Adult Sunday School \(Zoom\)](#)
- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children’s Sunday School

Monday, December 14

- 6:00 p.m. Meditation on Lament (FB)
- 6:30 p.m. Core Team Meeting (Zoom)

Sunday, December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m. [Adult Sunday School \(Zoom\)](#)
- 10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)
- 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Fellowship](#)
- 7:00 p.m. Children’s Sunday School

Christmas Eve Candlelight service: We will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight service, it will be broadcasted on the night of Christmas Eve. We are preparing candles to be given out to each household of our congregation, that will be one candle per household. To facilitate the distribution of the candles, you can pick the candles up for your family/household on December 14-17 and 19. Call the Pastor’s phone 612-757-7115 at any time of those dates, or the church office 763-788-9009 every Tuesday or Thursday mornings. We will prompt you during the service when the candles will be lit. Feel free to personalize the candles with decorations. If you can, take a picture of you and your family with the candle lit, and send it to leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org , then we will make a collage of the pictures.

Gift Shop: If you wish to buy items from the church gift shop contact Pat Good (651-348-6688). These items can be picked up on Wednesday mornings at 11 A.M.

Tech support ministry: If you need help in checking out your electronic devices in order to participate in our virtual service, send us (office@communitymethodistchurch.org or leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org) a note and we can send someone to come check it out for you (following safety guidelines and protocol).

Emergency Phone Number: If you need to contact the pastors for an emergency that cannot wait until the office phone is checked, we have added an emergency phone number: 612-757-7115. This is a cell phone that goes to the pastor on call.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Adult Bible Study venue will no longer be at the John Wesley Room in response to Bishop Ough’s appeal. Watch out for new procedures about this gathering.

Giving Options:

Electronic Giving has two options. One is using the app **Give+** on your smartphone (Android or iPhone), or via the church website. Check out the videos at:

<https://communitymethodistchurch.org/online-giving/> .

Otherwise, mailing in a check works great (950 Gould Ave NE, Columbia Heights, 55421).



Our Vision

*We are an urban, intergenerational, inclusive,
and welcoming Christian fellowship woven
into the fabric of our community.*

Community UMC's

Statement of Reconciliation:

Community United Methodist Church of Columbia Heights believes that we are all children of God, individuals of sacred worth, created in God's image with our many differences, and that God loves all people. We recognize that God's love is not limited by boundaries. Therefore, we welcome and affirm people of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, physical capabilities, or mental abilities.

We believe that prejudice, hatred, or discrimination directed toward any individual or group is contrary to the life, spirit, and teaching of Jesus Christ. We have vowed to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression. Therefore, we shall work to eliminate prejudice and discriminatory practices within ourselves and our community, and to show God's grace.

We proclaim ourselves a Reconciling Congregation and welcome all who seek a relationship with God.

Adopted November 3, 2019

Our Staff

Lead Pastor	Pastor Riva Tabelisma
Teaching Pastor	Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud
Ministers	All the Congregation
Office Manager	Martha Bentley
Music Director	Dan Ritter
Bell Choir Director	Karen Schneider

Church Office Phone: 763-788-9009

Emergency/Pastor Contact Phone Number: 612-757-7115

Pastor Riva Tabelisma's email:

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Pastor Nancy Victorin-Vangerud's email:

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