

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

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December 8, 2024

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 8, 2024 – 10:00am

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C - Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

a French carol

arr. by Anna Laura Page

INTROIT:

Emmanuel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS

God's salvation is like a refiner's fire, cleansing our impurities and making us clean and blameless before the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER (in Unison):

God of our deliverance, you meet us in our need. You fill the valleys of our insecurities with hope and bring low the mountains of our pride and conceit. As we await your Son and the glory of your salvation, guide our feet in the ways of peace. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord!"

A challenge is uttered from on high:

"Make straight the paths of our God."

Every valley will be lifted up.

Every mountain will be made low.

The winding path will be made straight,

and every rough way will be made smooth.

Come! Let us worship the God of our salvation.

*OPENING HYMN:

Advent Song

TFWS 2090 Vs 2

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE IN ADVENT

As light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot extinguish the light, so the candle of Hope represents the hope we have in Jesus. Especially during Advent, we look forward to his coming. We look forward to when he will finally right all the wrongs, when we will live in peace with one another.

(light the second candle)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in Unison):

We need the tender mercy of your grace, Holy One, as we seek to comprehend the light of your love. Disperse the shadows in our lives and release those who sit in darkness, that they may find peace and hope in the places where fear holds sway. Come to us like a refiner's fire and fullers' soap, for we long to be purified in body and soul and made ready to see the light of your salvation. Amen.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ brings light to our darkness and hope to disperse the shadow of death around us. Seek the Lord and find life anew.

HYMN OF WORSHIP

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

UMH 236 (vss 1,2,3)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As we prepare the way of the Lord, let us open our hearts to share gifts of love and mercy—gifts that are pleasing to our God.

OFFERTORY:

Erica Kessler

Hush, the Baby Is Sleeping
by Kurt Kaiser

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in Unison):

As you rescued your people of old, rescue us over and over again, Mighty One. As you purified the saints like a refiner's fire, purify our lives this day and bless the gifts we bring before you now. Through our offering, may those who sit in darkness find their way into the light of your loving arms. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Dave Holland

(As the children come to the altar, please sing stanza 1 of Hymn 191, "Jesus Loves Me")

***GOSPEL LESSON:**

Luke 2:8-14

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter, beginning with the 8th verse...

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." **13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

SERMON:

"The Hope of Advent"

Rev. Audrey Rochet

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, UMH 13-15

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING IN UNISON

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Am

***CLOSING HYMN:**

Angels From the Realms of Glory

UMH 220 (vss 1,2,4)

***BENEDICTION:**

May your love overflow in mercy and compassion, as you walk in the ways of Christ. May you produce a harvest of righteousness, as you live as Christ's disciples to the glory of God.

GOING FORTH:

Erica Kessler

Cantique de Noel
by Adolphe Adam
arr. by Eric Steiner

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Pastor: Rev. Auderine Rochet

Liturgists: CMUMC ministers

Worship Assistant: Jose Gustavo Lopez Rodriguez

Pianist: Erica Kessler

Bulletin: Lora Doll

Social Media: Dulce Maciel

Power Point: Janie Kellermann

Announcements

December 8, 2024

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Wednesdays Bible Study:

- with Pastor Judith in English, 12pm. On ZOOM.

For information about the **Spanish Bible Study** day and time call Pastor Audrey at (630) 670-3580

Good Samaritan Fund. Our Good Samaritan Fund is low. Money in this fund is used to help church members with financial assistance for housing, food and medical bills. If you would like to donate to boost this fund, please put your check in the collection plate. Make sure you put Good Samaritan Fund on the memo line. Your consideration to contribute to this fund is very much appreciated.

If you are able, please consider donating to our Good Samaritan Fund this Christmas.

Saturday Kids Club. Every Saturday from 10:30am to 12:45 pm.

CHURCH CONFERENCE - HOLY CONFERENCING QUESTIONS

- How have you experienced God's grace through the ministries of this congregation/faith community, over the past year?
- Where has your church been "experimenting" with new ways of being the church?
- How is your congregation bringing Christ to people and people to Christ?
- How are you and your congregation growing in intentional discipleship?

****PRAYER LIST****

At W. Willows: *Art Huenkemeier.*

At Cherryvale Place: *Carol Waxler.*

At Home: *Aida DeJesus.*

Undergoing Treatment/Rehab: *Ken Dahlgren, John Paul, Chuck & Kim Whitmore, Jennifer Martin, Pastor Judith, Milka Rivera, Connie Kim.*

BIRTHDAYS

12/10 Mario Solis

12/13 Jane Hobblitt Stein

12/14 Reuben Mendoza

Joys and Concerns

12/1/24

Marlene is making progress with her daily physical therapy and is improving using her walker. There is hope she may be discharged and able to return home by December 7th. Let us keep her in our prayers for continued healing and strength.

Let us also lift **Tara** in our prayers as she battles COVID and pneumonia, praying for her healing, strength and comfort during this challenging time.

We ask for continued prayers for **Connie** as she continues to undergo chemotherapy, that she may feel strengthened and comforted during this time.

We lift up **Grace** in our prayers as she is going through challenging times with her family back home, asking for peace, strength, and guidance in her situation.

We hope you will worship with us again.

You can call Pastor Audrey if you need any assistance, please contact her at 630.670.3580.

Pastor.audrey@ymail.com



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