

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

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December 22, 2024

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 22, 2024 – 10:00am

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CANTATA SUNDAY - YEAR C

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

Sing We Now Of Christmas

French carol

arr. by Carolyn Setliff

INTROIT:

Emmanuel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS

With fullness of heart, soul, and mind, we gather to glorify God and to rejoice in God, our Savior.

OPENING PRAYER (in Unison):

God of ancient days and future visions, we come into your presence to celebrate the joy of your Holy Spirit and the blessing of your Son, Christ Jesus. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, as you filled Elizabeth long ago. Sing through our songs of joy, as you sang through Mary. Speak through our words and our thoughts, that we may grow closer to the justice and the peace of Christ Jesus, who calls us here today. In Christ's holy and blessed name, we pray. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Rejoice in the presence and love of Christ.

We rejoice in the one who lives in our hearts.

Rejoice, for Christ brings justice and peace to our world.

We rejoice in the one who calls us to justice and peace.

Rejoice with faith and hope.

We rejoice in the one whose promises are true.

*OPENING HYMN:

Advent Song

TFWS 2090 (vss 1, 2 & 3)

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE IN ADVENT

Reader: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

(The fourth candle is lit)

Advent Song

TFWS 2090 (vss 4 & 5)

LIGHTING OF THE FIFTH CANDLE IN ADVENT

Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus. It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

(Light the Christ Candle/5th candle)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in Unison):

Merciful Savior, you know the hunger of our hearts, the hurt of our world, and the weakness of our lives. Feed us with faith and hope. Comfort us with love and joy. Forgive us with your grace. Strengthen us with your Spirit and give us the faith of Mary. For we yearn to proclaim your promises and draw strength from your vision of justice and peace in our weary world. In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ's mercy is for you, my friends. Christ's mercy is for me. Christ's mercy and grace are sure and assuring. May it be well with our souls. Amen.

HYMN OF WORSHIP

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH 196

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With joy and faith, may we bring our gifts and our love before God in this time of offering.

OFFERTORY:

Erica Kessler

The Virgin's Lullaby
by Dudley Buck

***DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in Unison):

May these gifts glorify your name, Holy One. May the ministries we support bring justice and peace to your world. May they offer faith and hope to your people. In grateful joy, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Dave Holland

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

***GOSPEL READING:**

Matthew 2:1-2

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter, beginning with the 1st verse...

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

HYMN:

We Three Kings

UMH 254 (vs 1)

***GOSPEL READING:**

Matthew 2:3-4

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter, beginning with the 3rd verse...

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

HYMN:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

UMH 211 (vss 1 & 4)

***GOSPEL READING:**

Matthew 2:5-6

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter, beginning with the 5th verse...

⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶""But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

HYMN:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230 (vs 1,2)

***GOSPEL READING:**

Matthew 2:7-9

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter, beginning with the 7th verse...

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

HYMN:

We Three Kings

UMH 254 (vs 5)

***GOSPEL READING:**

Matthew 2:10-12

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter, beginning with the 10th verse...

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

HYMN:

Joy to the World

UMH 246 (vss 1,4)

SERMON:

"God With Us"

Rev. Audrey Rochet

***CLOSING HYMN:**

Silent Night

UMH 239

***BENEDICTION:**

Go forth with joy. Go forth in faith.

May peace be our way in the world.

GOING FORTH:

Erica Kessler

Feliz Navidad

music and lyrics by Jose Feliciano

CREDITS:

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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 22, 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.

****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

12/22 Blanca Zavala

12/23 Elizabeth Jaworowski

12/26 Brooklyn Brown

12/28 Arely Barrera

Joys and Concerns

December 15, 2024

Pastors Keith and Judith need our prayers for their nephew Nathan and his family. He was going home from work at midnight this past week and hit a woman who was laying in the middle of the highway. It was so dark, he did not see her but felt a bump. After stopping he noticed she did not have any coat and very little clothing on and she was pronounced dead. Nathan was not charged with any wrong doing, but it was such a traumatic thing to happen. Please keep Nathan, his family and Pastors Keith and Judith in your prayers.

Pastor Keith has been waiting for a while to have a MRI done and finally he was able to have it this past week. He is hoping to hear the results sometime this week. He is so happy to finally find out how he is doing.

Ashley Russ, who used to be in Dave Holland's group was 31 and was 9 months pregnant. She passed away this past week and her baby lived for a few days before passing also. Please keep her mother and family in your prayers as they suffer this terrible double loss.

Bev Dahlgren's sister in law Nancy, had surgery for cancer in her jaw and chin area. It was an 8 hour surgery and she will be in the hospital for several more days and then will go to a rehab in Madison, Wi. When she leaves that rehab she will return to Rockford and enter the rehab center in Wesley Willows. Please pray for her as she has a long recovery.

Monday, December 16, 2024 Abundant Life Christian School in Madison suffered a shooting in the school. A teacher and a teenage student were killed and six students were hurt. Let us keep these families in our prayers as they process this traumatic experience and grieve their loss. Prayers for the victims, their families, and all those affected by this tragedy.

Cindy and Dougal request prayers. Eric's mother Joanne Hesselbacher, passed away December 15 around noon. Also, Eric lost his job because the company he was working for mismanaged the company money and the company was shut down. Please include Eric, Nikki, Keith and the entire family in your prayers.

Grace Palmer requests prayers for her family back home in Sudan. Her mother is sick but her sister is there with her caring for her which Grace is grateful for.

Tara Arencibia asks for prayer because her daughter Dani is moving to Louisiana so the boys, Tara's grandchildren, will be leaving as well. Tara is having a hard time with them leaving. She will miss them very much. y was shut down.

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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