

*Your Friendly  
Community Church*



**December 18, 2022**

**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent**

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

### PRELUDE

WELCOME Karen Pratt  
& ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have been looking for a sign.

**People: Emmanuel – God with us.**

Leader: We have been waiting for a savior.

**People: Emmanuel – God with us.**

Leader: The time is near – can it be?

**People: Emmanuel – God with us.**

Leader: Come let us worship the God of sign,  
wonder, and promise.

\*HYMN UMH #196  
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God, in this time of worship, may we be open to your promises, your love, and your transformation. May we vision and dream. May we be surprised. May we receive the life you give us. May we encounter Emmanuel – God with us. And may we never be the same. Amen.**

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Boyce Family

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Diane Horn

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

### \*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, the mother of our Lord, speak to us now through your Word so we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will. Amen.**

\*NEW TESTAMENT LESSON NT #151  
Romans 12:9-21

SERMON Rev. Meegian Gossard  
“The Heart That Grew Three Sizes”

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*THE APOSTLES' CREED UMH #881

**PRAYER**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Choir

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**UMH #95**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**WE GO WITH GOD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*HYMN**

**UMH #250**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*AMEN RESPONSE**

**UMH #898**

**POSTLUDE**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to our worship service this morning. If you are visiting, please complete a visitor’s card located in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

Thank you to all who ordered poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones. They certainly enhance the beauty of our sanctuary. Remember to take your poinsettias with you after the Christmas Day service.

We invite you to join us for a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 24.

You are invited to join us for our Christmas Day Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday, December 25, at 11 am.

If you are unsure how to contact Pastor Meegian, her cell number and email address are printed on the front of the bulletin every week. Her cell is the best way to contact her.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 21

10:00 Pastor's Bible Study - Crossroads SS room

5:45 Choir - Choir Room

Friday, December 23

**Church office closed**

Saturday, December 24

5:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

11:00 Lessons and Carols Service

You are welcomed to attend one of our Sunday School groups each Sunday Morning:

**Crossroads SS Class** meets via Zoom at 9 am  
Please contact L.W. Smith for Zoom invite.

**Pathfinder SS Class** meets at 9:45 am in the parlor located in the Education Building.

**Children's SS Class** meets at 9:45 am in the Crossroads SS room located in the Education Building.

## HEARING INFO

If you would like to use a hearing assistance device, please see an usher for assistance.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please write your prayer requests in the book found on the podium located at the back of the sanctuary before the service begins. Pastor Meegian will receive these requests and lift them up for prayer during worship.

We are excited to have you in our worship service today. We love that the walls of our building do not limit the impact of our ministry and have a wonderful community joining us today virtually. As such, we would like to remind all in attendance that your presence in our worship service indicates your approval that you and all minors you represent being recorded for our digital usage. This includes, but is not limited to, your image, name, and involvements in today's services.