

Welcome

Choral Call to Worship

Aldersgate Choir

Call to Worship

Worship Leaders: Julianne van Meerten, Eric Schoute

One: Our God can part the sea.

**All: God can bring water from a rock,
and provide bread in the desert.**

One: Our God can walk on water.

**All: He can heal the sick,
and turn water into wine.**

One: Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**All: God hears our voice when we cry,
and is closer than our own breath.**

One: There is nothing our God cannot do.

All: Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

*Hymn

O Worship the King

UMH #73

Lighting of Advent Candles

Logan Alley, Abby White

Storytime with Children (All children may leave for Sunday School after this.)

Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness:

Holy God,

Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe.

We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts.

We praise those who have answers,
and assume that wonder is an answerless game.

Forgive us for closing that door to you.

Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children.

Teach us the ways of awe and wonder,
so that like Zechariah,

when we find ourselves speechless,

our first words will be words of praise.

With hearts open wide, we pray, Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalms 126, Luke 1:57-66 O.T. p. 572, N.T. p. 57

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn

Isn't It Amazing

(see insert)

Sermon

Pastor Michelle Mejia

Affirmation of Faith

One: We believe in a God who knows our names,

**All: who counts the hairs on our heads,
and carries the dreams in our hearts.**

One: We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation,

All: and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.

One: We believe that awe and wonder,

**All: goosebumps and laughter,
telling stories and paying attention,**

One: are all ways that we can say thank you
to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.

**All: Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world
with eyes wide open,
with porous hearts,
and grateful spirits.**

One: We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude,

**All: trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper
into God's loving arms.**

One: We believe.

**All: We stand in awe.
Thanks be to God!**

Choral Call to Prayer *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior* v.1 UMH #351

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer UMH #895

Offering and Answering God's Call

Financial offerings can be placed in the basket up front, or in the box in the back before or after the service, mailed to the church office, made online at www.uumcp.org/electronic-giving, or by texting an amount you want to give to: 301-364-9236

Music Ministry *What a Wonderful World* by Thiele and Weiss
Howard Leathers, soloist

*Doxology UMH #94

*Closing Hymn *What Child Is This* UMH #219

*Benediction

Postlude

Today's Liturgy by Sanctified Art

MD Food Pantry Please donate feminine hygiene products and cinnamon.

For Your Calendar:

Dec. 17 Choir Cantata Presentation; Loaves and Fishes
Dec. 21 Longest Night Service- Liturgy for the Weary; 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 24 Sunday, Christmas Eve - One Service - 5:00 p.m.;
No morning service
Dec. 31 Service of Stories, Poems, and Music
Jan. 7 Snacks and Stash (Stash away sanctuary decorations)

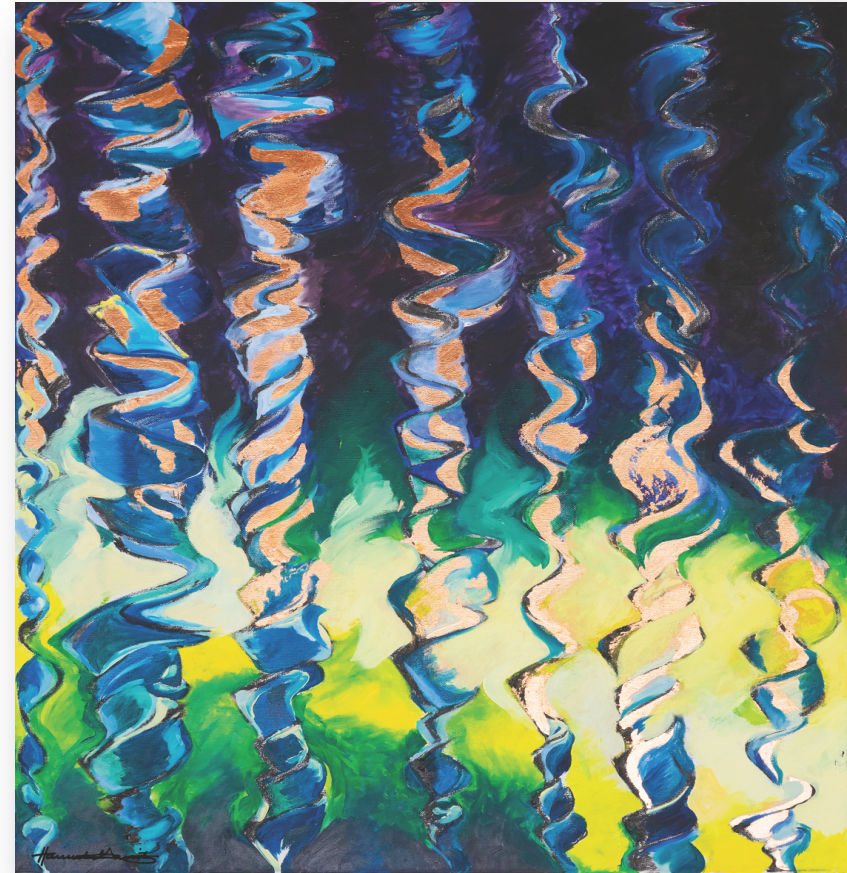
www.uumcp.org office@uumcp.org (301) 422-1400



UNIVERSITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



December 10, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent



Watercourses
by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by Psalm 126
Oil paint, charcoal, and copper leaf on canvas