

Prelude Dan La Russo – banjo, Eric Johnson – fiddle, Alice La Russo – guitar

Welcome

Choral Call to Worship Aldersgate Choir

Call to Worship Worship Leaders: Allison and Joy Amann

One: We come from a world of weariness

Many: Looking for strength and hope.

One: We come from a world of isolation

Many: Seeking connection and care

One: We come from a world asleep

Many: To awaken to God's presence with us.

One: God is the one who gathers us in,

All: to watch, to seek, to awake, to wonder and to worship together!

***Hymn** *I Come with Joy* UMH #617

Lighting of Advent Wreath Snyder Family

Storytime with Children (Children ages 3-5 may go to Sunday School after this.)

Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness:

One: God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**All: We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

One: Instead of leaning into joy,
we lean into scarcity.

All: We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.

One: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**All: Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.
Show us how to find joy in connection. Am**

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 Luke 1:24-45 Isaiah 40:1-11 N.T. p. 56 , O.T. p. 667

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** *I Can Celebrate You* (on insert) Anna Strickland

Sermon Pastor Michelle Mejia

Invitation to Holy Communion TFWS p .2257 a - d

Lord's Prayer UMH #895

Holy Communion All are welcome to come forward to receive
the sacrament. Gluten free options are available.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that joy is a sacred gift,
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.
We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.
Joy is meant to be shared,
weaving us together in laughter and in hope.
And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,
we believe that part of being sacred community
is leaning on one another.
So together we say:
I will share my joy when yours runs out.
You will share your joy when mine runs out.
And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.**

Offering and Answering God's Call

Financial offerings may be placed in the basket in the front, or the box in the back of the sanctuary 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

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming
Aldersgate Choir

Praetorius

***Doxology**

UMH #94

***Closing Hymn**

Where Charity and Love Prevail vv.1, 2 & 6

UMH #549

***Benediction**

Postlude

Trio



**UNIVERSITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**



December 3, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Today's Liturgy by Sanctified Art

MD Food Pantry Please donate feminine hygiene products and cinnamon.

Poinsettias Orders are due tomorrow before noon.

For You In the narthex, you may pick up Advent Poetry, an Advent Devotional Book, Advent calendars for adults and children.

For Your Calendar:

- Today Communion; Bell Ringers' Rehearsal
- Dec. 4 Poinsettia order called in to nursery in the morning
- 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 Undecorate the sanctuary

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



Comfort, O Comfort
by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Isaiah 40:1-11
Digital Painting