

Welcome

Choral Call to Worship

Aldersgate Choir

Call to Worship

Worship Leaders: Collin and Jenna Mueller

One: In God's house, we can be joyful.

All: We can be grateful.

One: We can be hopeful.

All: In God's house, we can be weary.

One: We can be anxious.

All: We can be grieving.

One: In God's house, we can be honest—

All: inspired or tired,

One: delighted or doubtful,

All: connected or curious,

One: and everything in between.

All: This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

*Hymn

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

UMH #521

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Ponting/Fisher Family

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

Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness:

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. 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

Luke 1:1-23 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

O.T. p.

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

O Hear Our Cry, O Lord

See insert

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who hears our prayers,

who knows the shape and form of our weariness.

We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us,
not just survival and existence.

We believe in a God who looks ahead,

who is not done dreaming for the world—

a God who sends hope in the form of people and change,
movements and Spirit.

And so we return to this space.

We bring our joy and our weariness

like two sides of the same coin,

and we trust that God is already at work.

Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Choral Call to Prayer

Turn Your Eyes

UMH #349

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

UMH #895

Offering and Answering God's Call

Financial offerings can be placed in the basket by the baptismal font 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

People, Look East
Aldersgate Choir

by Stephen Caracciolo

***Doxology**

UMH #94

***Closing Hymn**

Weary World Rejoice

See insert

***Benediction**

Postlude

MD Food Pantry Please donate feminine hygiene products and cinnamon.

Poinsettias Orders are due Dec. 4

For Your Calendar:

- Dec. 3 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

www.uumcp.org office@uumcp.org (301) 422-140



**UNIVERSITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

November 26, 2023



Pastor Michelle Mejia