

Welcome

Choral Call to Worship

Aldersgate Choir

Call to Worship

Worship Leader: Abby White

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

All: We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

One: This is the day that the Lord is still making.

All: Let us worship holy God.

\*Hymn

*How Can We Keep from Singing*

TFWS #2212

Lighting of Advent Candles

Mejia and Scott Families

Storytime with Children (Children ages 3 -5 may leave for Sunday School after this.)

Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness:

Holy God,

More days than not, hope feels like the rain.

We try to hold onto it with cupped hands,

but eventually, it slips right on through.

Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.

Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow.

We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we

pray: turn us into those people.

Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world.

With open hearts we pray, amen.

Aldersgate Choir Presentation of Christmas Music (see insert)

Affirmation of Faith

We believe

that hope can change the world.

We believe

that God uses ordinary people,

like an unwed teenage mother,

for extraordinary good.

And we believe

that each of these ordinary people

can make a difference.

We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.

We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope.

But we choose hope anyway.

In the face of hardship,

we hope together.

We hope with God.

We hope for a better world.

This is our song.

We believe; help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

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](http://www.uumcp.org/electronic-giving), or by texting an amount you want to give to: 301-364-9236

\*Doxology

UMH #94

\*Closing Hymn

*Lullaby of Praise*

(see insert)

\*Benediction

Postlude

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

*Today's Liturgy by Sanctified Art*

**MD Food Pantry** Please donate feminine hygiene products and cinnamon.

**For Your Calendar:**

**Today** 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 Epiphany

Potluck and Undecorating Party

[www.uumcp.org](http://www.uumcp.org) office@uumcp.org (301) 422-1400



UNIVERSITY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH



December 17, 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Embroidered Borders  
by Nicolette Peñaranda  
Inspired by Luke 1:46-55  
Acrylic, ink, and mixed media collage on canvas

### **Musicians**

Millicent Scarlett, Music Director  
Dana N. Scott, Organist and Pianist  
Oboe: Julie Ponting

### **Readers**

Allison Amann, Carla Clemons, and Rev. Michelle Mejia

### **Aldersgate Choir**

Ellen Brown, Donna Southwood-Smith, Vikki Graham,  
Alice La Russo, Patricia Thomas, Joyce Prather,  
Julianne van Meerten, Ray Prather, Tim Synder,  
Eric Schoute, Howard Leathers,  
Chao-Hsi Chang, and Tom Howley



*Presented by the  
UUMC Aldersgate Choir*

**December 17, 2023**

# Hope: An Advent Poem by Luke Schumann

(Read in Three Parts)

## Part One:

"This is the season" from Hope: An Advent Poem

Advent Canticle Mark Sheppard  
Soloists: Julianne Van Meerten and Eric Schoute, Julie Ponting

Reading: John 1:9,14

The Wild Wood Carol John Rutter  
Soloists: Tim Synder and Julie Ponting

Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

Poem: Advent Hands Catherine Adler

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Ave Generosa Ola Gjelio  
Soloist: Ellen Brown

Reading: Luke 1:47-55

## Part Two

"And when hatred and violence" from Hope: An Advent Poem

Reading : Luke 2:1-6

Still, Still arr. Rupert Lang

Poem: The Stable Sr. M. Chrysostom

Away in a Manger Ola Gjeilo  
Soloist: Donna Southwood-Smith

Poem: A Christmas Carol GK Chesterton

In the Sky A Star Is Bright Lloyd Larson

Reading: Luke 2:8-14

Sing Noel to the Baby Ruth Schram  
Soloist: Vikki Graham

How Great Our Joy Craig Courtney

Reading: Luke 2: 15-19

Silent Night Peter Anglea

## Part Three

" Hope is instead a stronghold" from Hope: An Advent Poem

Reading: John 3:16

Poem: The Candle of Hope Royston Allen

For Unto Us a Child is Born G.F. Handel

