

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30AM, December 22nd, 2024

Asterisk (*) indicates standing, as able. Bold/colored type indicates text spoken in unison.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

God has done great things for us!

God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ.

Holy is God's name!

God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

*HYMN "Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come!" UMH # 246

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed UMH # 881

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Holy God, your prophet Micah foretold with faith that a new ruler would come forth from Bethlehem - today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise; your daughter Elizabeth proclaimed with faith that her cousin was to be the mother of her Lord - today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise; your servant Mary proclaimed with faith that she would be called blessed by all generations - today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise. Make us bold enough to proclaim with faith - the coming of your kingdom, the coming of your justice, the coming of your peace. May we sing out the good news of your salvation, trusting in fulfillment of your promises. All this we pray in the name of the one who comes. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Mark Shenise

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world—a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace. (Prayer continues in silence.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled. God does not forget us. God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Let our souls rejoice in God!

Thanks be to God.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

SPECIAL MUSIC Moses Jee / Phillip Jee

MESSAGE "Which Magnificat Shall We Sing?" Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" **UMH # 230**

* THE LORD'S PRAYER **UMH # 895**

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" **UMH # 95**

*PRAYER OF OFFERING Unison

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kin-dom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" **UMH # 196**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* The offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to participate.

* Fellowship follows the worship service. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parlor.



Welcome to
Mendham United Methodist Church

www.mendhamumc.org

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

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Sunday, December 22nd, 2024



Classic Banner, Year C, Forth Sunday of Advent, 1997,
Vanderbilt Divinity Library staff, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN, United States

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