

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

Christmas Program

3rd Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Jiwon

Welcome and Announcements

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Lord's Prayer

***Call to Worship**

Rae Kipper: Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity's greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

Many Voices: What, then, should we do?

Rae Kipper: Our world is also full of the fruit of God's love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God.

Many Voices: What, then, should we do?

Rae Kipper: God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel. What then, children of God, should you do?

Many Voices: We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, and mercy. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

"The First Song of Isaiah"

UMH #2030

***Passing the Peace**

Opening Prayer

Rae Kipper: Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life is full of wonder and surprise. We pray you to make us watchful as we await the coming of Christ. Grant that we may not be found sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in your newness of life. Through the same Jesus Christ our Savior,

All: Amen!

Lighting the Advent Candle (Joy)

Charles Hoehn

Chuck: Today, we light the third candle of Advent. The meaning of the first candle is hope. The second candle is called the candle of peace. The meaning of the third candle is joy.

Many Voices: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." – Philippians 4:4 (NRSV)

Chuck: Christ comes to us to offer us joy!

Many Voices: Christ is our joy!

[Light Two Blue Candles and the Pink Candle]

Advent Prayer

Chuck: Gracious God, on this third Sunday in Advent, we give you thanks for the joy you bring into our lives. We confess that we have sometimes been blinded by the pleasures of the world by pursuing material success, power to dominate others, and social positions. We have failed to live a meaningful life, but you have given us new life and guided us to a path of genuine joy. Guide us to a deeper and more mature faith, as we wait for the birth of Jesus. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many Voices: Amen.

Responsive Song

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (*verse 2*)

UMH #211

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Empower us to live fully present, giving generously and acting justly. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to your kin-dom. Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Christmas Program

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 12:2-6 (*NRSVue*)

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Bang Wool, Jiho, Jisung, Jiwon, Dave

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7 (*NRSVue*)

"Ding Dong Merrily on High"

Jiho, Jovie & Bang Wool

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

Jiho, Jovie & Bang Wool

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3: 10-18 (*NRSVue*)

Rae Kipper: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Carrie, Jovie, Maya, Paul

"A Story of Christmas a Pageant"

"Gesu Bambino"

Susan & Carrie

"Desiderata"

Armando

"Away in the Manger"

Chime Choir

"The First Noel"

Chime Choir

Benediction

Postlude

Reception with Christmas Cookies follows the service.