

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 24th, 2024

Christmas Eve 10:00 pm

## Prelude

## Lighting of the Altar Candles

Jiwon

## Singing

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (*verses 1 & 3*)

UMH #234

## Lighting the Advent Candles and Christ Candle

**Jay Jeske:** We light Advent candles as a sign of hope, peace, joy and love of God in our lives.

**Many Voices: The true light is shining in the world.**

**Jay Jeske:** It is the light of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ.

**Many Voices: We light this Christ candle and remember how much Jesus loves us and the world.**

*[Four Advent Candles and the Christ Candle are lit.]*

Sarah Jeske

## Christmas Affirmation

**Rachel Jeske:** We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us. We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child. We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living. Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Many Voices: Amen.**

## Singing

Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH #204

## Welcome

### \*Call to Worship

**Amanda Smith:** All people are welcome here tonight.

**Many Voices: We have gathered to hear the story of Jesus' birth.**

**Amanda Smith:** All who walk in darkness,

**Many Voices: come see a great light.**

**Amanda Smith:** All who hope to see God,

**Many Voices: come see the glory of our savior, Jesus Christ.**

**Amanda Smith:** All who are simply waiting to see what's next,

**Many Voices: come see the good news God brings.**

**Amanda Smith:** Rejoice before God in the light and glory of this night.

**Many Voices: We rejoice that God's grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

**Amanda Smith:** Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!

**Many Voices: Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!!**

## \*Singing

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

UMH #238

## \*Passing the Peace

### Prayer

**Rachel Jeske:** Holy God, help us pause in the midst of our busyness. Quiet our minds and spirits on this Christmas Eve, that we may hear the good news of your gift of Jesus Christ – your gift to a world so in need of peace, justice, and joy. If we walk in darkness and despair, help us see the great light of your presence. If we wait in hope for the coming of Christ, help us offer help to those around us. Help us see your glory breaking into our lives. In the quiet of this night, may we welcome your peace and favor, through Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Lord.

**All: Amen!**

### Offering Ourselves

Special Music

Amanda Smith

\*Doxology

\*Offering Prayer

**All: Glorious God, as the shepherds rejoiced at the angel's news, we too bring our offerings with joy. Bless these gifts, that they may spread your good news of great joy to all people. Use them to bring peace, justice, and hope to our community and beyond. In this season of Advent, may our giving reflect the light of Christ, and may we be your instruments of love and generosity. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

### Scripture Readings

Jay Jeske

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7 (*NRSVue*)

New Testament Lesson

Luke 2:14-20 (*NRSVue*)

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:13-15 (*NRSVue*)

**Jay Jeske:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**Many Voices: Thanks be to God.**

## Singing

"Star-Child"

TFWS #2095

## Christmas Reflection

Pastor Dave

### Holy Communion

Communion Prayer

**Pastor Dave:** God of justice and bounty, in your new day, the world is filled with good things. Bless these gifts of bread and wine, fruit of the vine and work of human hands, that they may nourish us as we await your coming, in the name of Christ, who lived and died so that we might live.

**Many Voices: Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

**Pastor Dave:** Christ be with you.

**Many Voices: And also with you.**

**Pastor Dave:** Lift up your hearts.

**Many Voices: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Pastor Dave:** Let us give our thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**Many Voices: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Pastor Dave:** It is a right, good, and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you thanks, O God, Creator of heaven and earth. You lead us in paths of righteousness and peace. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, and the cry of John the Baptizer, you have spoken of your great love for your people and have promised to heal all that is broken and forsaken, to redeem all who are lost and alone.

And so, with your people on earth, and all the great cloud of witnesses in heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Many Voices: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Pastor Dave:** Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ, who came to the river to be baptized, and taught us of the Holy Spirit, living in us and around us and among us.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Many Voices: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**Pastor Dave:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may become one with Christ, who lived and died and rose to bring healing to a broken world. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until we feast together at the heavenly banquet in your eternal kin-dom. Maker of justice and mercy, Spirit of compassion and grace, Lover of all creation, we give you thanks and praise.

**Many Voices: Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

## **The Light of Christ Fills Our Hearts**

*[While "Silent Night" is playing, Pastor Dave will light a candle from the Christ Candle. Pastor Dave and liturgist will pass the flames to the first worshipper at the end of the aisle, and that person will pass it to the next, and so on. May we all take care to ensure that we do this safely.]*

### **\*Singing**

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

UMH #239

*[Please, raise your candle carefully during the third stanza as a tribute to God's Wondrous Light, Jesus Christ, shining in our lives and through us to the world.]*

### **\*Dismiss with Blessing**

*[All extinguish the candles before exiting the sanctuary.]*

### **\*Hymn of Sending Forth**

"Joy to the World"

UMH #246

**Merry Christmas!**

## Notices

**Church Office Hours:        Wednesday - Friday: CLOSED**

**The Church Office is CLOSED Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> through Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

We ask that you *call before visiting*.

### **Pastor Dave is Away**

Pastor Dave is on vacation until January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Patti Cash if there is an emergency.

### **Offering Options**

There are different options for getting your offering to the church.

- Go to the church website at [www.woodridgeumc.org/giving](http://www.woodridgeumc.org/giving).
- Text 630.449.7121 with the amount you would like to give
- Drop off in the gold mail slot next to the east door of the church.
- Mail your offering.

### **January - February Upper Rooms**

There are a few Upper Rooms for January – February are available in the narthex with a limited number in the mailbox.

### **Hat and Mitten Tree**

Our Hat and Mitten Tree is in the Narthex throughout the Christmas season and all items collected will be given to Woodridge schools to be distributed to children who are in need. (Please no scarves. That's been taken care of by the Scarf Outreach).

### **60th Anniversary Sign**

Our current sign is 30 years old and no longer working. In celebration of 60+ years together, we are working towards replacing the broken sign with a new electronic messaging sign. Designs and quotes have been requested from sign companies. *It will be about \$42,000. Thanks to generous donations, we are most of the way there. We do still need an additional \$3000-\$7000.* Please join us in celebrating our church and donate today! If you wish your donation to be in memory or honor of a loved one, we will publish the list when the sign is installed.

### **First Friday Lunch**

Join us for lunch at noon **Friday, January 3rd**. Just bring your lunch and be ready for good conversation and of course laughter. Everyone is welcome!

### **Gift Card Sale Results**

Thanks to all of your awesome generosity, our gift card sale has raised \$762 for the church. Please look for another sale before Easter. Blessings to you and yours for a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

### **Bible Study Resumes**

Our Bible study of the Letters of Paul to the Corinthians resumes in January. The study will be offered on **Tuesday mornings via Zoom (10:30 a.m. to Noon)** and **Wednesday evenings** in person (**6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**). The **Tuesday class** will begin on **January 7th**, and the **Wednesday class** will begin on **January 8th**. We will read one chapter together each week and

go deeper with questions and discussions. If you are newly interested in participating, please contact the church office, 630.968.6050 or [office@woodridgeumc.org](mailto:office@woodridgeumc.org) or Pastor Dave ([PastorDaveYim@woodridgeumc.org](mailto:PastorDaveYim@woodridgeumc.org)).

### Second Saturday Diners

Happy New Year! Second Saturday Diners will be gathering at Bella Notte, 5900 S. IL 53, Lisle (formerly Wheatstacks), on **Saturday, January 11, at 5:00 pm**. Let's ring in the new year together because everyone is invited! Please **RSVP to Gwenn Edman by Wednesday, January 8th**. We are also looking for hosts for our monthly dinners.

### Sign Committee Meeting

There is a Sign Committee meeting **next Sunday, January 12th after service** to discuss the layout/colors of the sign and any other questions you might have.

### WUMC Music Ensembles: 2024

Our Music Ministry offers you three ways to get involved: the Handbell Choir, the Worship Band, and the Adult Choir. This could be the year you take that "leap of faith" and join a group! All ensembles are LOW commitment. We ask that you please attend the rehearsals leading up to the service date. It is that simple! For a full schedule see the e-News or the handout in the narthex.

In order to plan music, please RSVP to Carrie by the dates listed.

### Worship Band (RSVPs were due by November 24th)

NO Rehearsal	Dec. 29	Blackhawks game	
Service	Jan. 5	10 AM (Epiphany)	Rehearse in the sanctuary at 8:45 AM

### Next Up: Handbell Choir (Please RSVP by January 5<sup>th</sup>)

Rehearsal	Jan. 19	11:20 AM-12:45 PM	Preschool Blue Room
Rehearsal	Jan. 26	11:20 AM-12:45 PM	Preschool Blue Room
Rehearsal	Feb. 2	11:20 AM-12:45 PM	Preschool Blue Room
Rehearsal	Feb. 9	11:20 AM-12:45 PM	Preschool Blue Room
Service	Feb. 16	10 AM	Rehearse in the sanctuary at 8:30 AM

### December Outreach – Save Abandoned Babies Foundation

The Save Abandoned Babies Foundation is a not-for-profit volunteer group dedicated to saving babies from being abandoned in dumpsters and other unsafe places. Our grassroots effort began in March of 2000 when our volunteers drafted a safe haven law and lobbied for its passage. The resulting Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act unanimously passed both the Illinois House and Senate and was signed into Illinois law in August of 2001.

The Save Abandoned Babies Foundation is now focused on spreading awareness of the Safe Haven Law, allowing a parent to safely relinquish their newborn to a person at a Police Station (including campus police), Fire Station, Hospital or Emergency Medical Facility with no questions asked. Since the enactment of this law 160 newborns have been safely relinquished.

### Blood Drive at St. Scholastica – Save the Date

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive at St. Scholastica **on Saturday, January 4th from 7:30 am to noon**. To schedule your donation, go to [www.versiti.org/IL](http://www.versiti.org/IL) or call 800-770-GIVE. Appointments appreciated; walk-ins are welcome! Photo ID is required. Flyers are in the e-News or Narthex.

### **Join us at Northern IL Conf. Mission U Winter 2025 - Online Only**

Participants can choose between two books (or both) to read and discuss. The books are *Welcome Home*, which focuses on transforming our lives to honor God and our relationships with others; and *Missionary Conferences*, providing an overview of Red Bird in Appalachia, Alaska, and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conferences. Classes meet twice per week. United Women of Faith organizes the event; all are welcome! For more information and days and times, go to: <https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/winter-2025-mission-u>

**Sunday, January 5th (3:00-4:00 pm):** Opening Service

**Weeks of January 5th & 12th:** Classes will meet twice each week

**Sunday, January 19th (3:00-4:00 pm):** Closing Service

#### ***Welcome Home: An Invitation to Dwell in the House of God***

Choose Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-5pm OR 7-9pm

#### ***Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States***

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30 pm

### **Free Square Dancing**

Downers Grove Square Thrus is hosting a FREE Square Dance on **Monday January 6th 7:00pm - 9:00 pm** at our church. No experience needed. No partner required. Couples, singles and families are all welcome! Wear casual attire and comfortable shoes. Lessons start Monday, January 13th. For more information go to [www.SquareThrus.com](http://www.SquareThrus.com) or call 630.747.9073.

### **Prairie Central Leadership Training**

**January 18th at 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.** Grace UMC in Naperville 300 E. Gartner Road Cost \$15 each or Bring 4 or more people from your church and only pay \$60 total Classes are offered in evangelism, building management, One Board structure, SPRC, finance, discipleship, mental health, communications and more. More information and registration: [umcnic.org/calendar/prairie-central-leadership-training-2025](http://umcnic.org/calendar/prairie-central-leadership-training-2025)

#### **Questions?**

Patti Cash - [patti.cash@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:patti.cash@peopleofgrace.org)

Rev. Melissa Meyers - [mmeyers815@gmail.com](mailto:mmeyers815@gmail.com)

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration,**

Join us in celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with prayers, testimonies, music and a guest speaker on **Sunday, January 19th at 3 p.m.** at First United Methodist Church Downers Grove. There will be a worship service with light supper afterwards. There is no cost, but online registration will be coming to help us prepare the correct amount of food. Go to: <https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/nic-mlk-celebration-2025>.

**Guest Speaker:** Rev. Danita R. Anderson - Assistant to the Bishop, NIC

**Remarks:** Bishop Dan Schwerin - Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area