



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 ROWE BOULEVARD – ANNAPOLIS, MD – WWW.CALUMC.ORG

DECEMBER 24, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Once He Came in Blessing &
Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*

Betsy Lord, *organist*

Wilber Held

THE GREETING & INVOCATION

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord,

People: **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.** (Luke 1:46b-47)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Martha Strong, *liturgist*

Liturgist: Light the lamps, prepare the room. God is coming to us!

People: **Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God's most
gracious gift, God's Son, Jesus Christ.**

Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

May God's light shine on us, in us and through us.

All: **May we, like Mary, respond to God's presence and love that
God's glory may be seen. Let us worship God!**

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*OPENING HYMN

UMH 202

People, Look East

** Indicates please stand as able in body or spirit.*

*MORNING PRAYER

Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

† *All may be seated.*

THE NEWS TO KNOW

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

McCumber Family
Jeremy, Keri, Audrey, & Andrew

In the Bleak Midwinter

Sandy Warner, *soloist*

Reader: We unwrap a present on this last Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.

People: We open our hearts as we open the gift!

Reader: The promise of Love is God's gift that we receive.

People: And what will we do with it?

Reader: The gift of love is the essence of the birth of Christ. God so wanted to be in presence with us that God's Spirit became flesh in order to inhabit the gifts of touching, healing, comforting, and challenging. Love is the call to us as Jesus' disciples. The love we put into the world, the better the world will be.

People: We light this Candle of Love as a sign that we will share our Presence with Love in the world.

- *Worship Design Studio*

In the Bleak Midwinter

(Congregation joins singing)

UMH 221, vs 4

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Nancy Mills, *Dir. of Discipleship*

Children are invited to come forward for a special message. Afterwards, all children are dismissed to Sunday School in Room 214/216 with Ms. Kathryn where parents may pick them up after worship.

ANTHEM

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

arr. Dan Forrest
Sandy Warner, *soloist*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING - 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16 (NRSV)

Now when the king was settled in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

*GOSPEL READING - LUKE 1:26-38 (NRSV)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God.

† All may be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Linda W. Motter

The Gift of Presence With Love

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

UMH 242

Love Came Down at Christmas

PASTORAL PRAYER *with* THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*All are invited to give of their morning offerings online at CALUMC.org, in the collection
black box in the Narthex, Venmo (@calvaryumcannapolis) or US Postal Service
to support the work of Calvary United Methodist Church sharing God's love with the world.*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with
us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming
reign of justice and peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN

UMH 218

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*THE BLESSING & BENEDICTION

**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)**

POSTLUDE

Betsy Lord, *organist*

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

*The altar flowers are in loving memory of Marion & Charles Whitfield and John & Mary Edith Smith
from Pamela Smith.*