



Hope Peace Joy

# Worship Celebration

*Third Sunday of Advent*

December 13, 2020 + 11 AM

## **Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!**

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

**Join us in worship, this week and every week:**

Sunday at 11 AM online ([www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos](http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos))

Monday—Friday at 9 am (Morning Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 518 014 483)

Wednesday at 7 pm (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 848 4741 1964; passcode: 195510)

*In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.*

## **We Gather as God's Children**

Prelude

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Johannes Brahms

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Spirit of God, we give you thanks for drawing near,  
for touching the world in the savior's birth.*

*Help us draw near to you now,  
as we prepare our hearts and our world for the justice and peace you bring.*

*Guide our preparations this Advent,  
as we share the good news with those who suffer  
and offer our friendship to those who are alone.*

*Move within our hearts, as we make a way for your coming,  
forgiving others as we have been forgiven.*

*Come, Spirit of God; be born in us anew,  
that we may live in your mercy and grace. Amen.*

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.**

**Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

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### Lighting the Third Advent Candle

A prophet tells us how God comes—  
through someone who receives God's spirit, and through a community that hears the good news:

"The Spirit of the Living God is upon me because God has anointed me...  
to announce good news to the humble, to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to captives, and release to those in prison,...  
to comfort all who mourn, to give them garlands instead of ashes,  
oil of gladness instead of mourners' tears."

We light our third candle as a sign of hope that the Spirit of God may anoint us  
to show God's liberating love.

Living God, come to our world.

**Set us free that we may free others. Bind our wounds that we may heal others.  
Fill us with your Spirit, and anoint us with your love. Amen.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Public Domain

## We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

**People: Our ears and hearts are open.**

### First Lesson—Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD God's spirit is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners,

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and a day of vindication for our God,  
to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup> to provide for Zion's mourners,  
to give them a crown in place of ashes, oil of joy in place of mourning,  
a mantle of praise in place of discouragement.

They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, planted by the LORD to glorify himself.

<sup>4</sup>They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore formerly deserted places;  
they will renew ruined cities, places deserted in generations past....

<sup>8</sup>I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and dishonesty.

I will faithfully give them their wage, and make with them an enduring covenant.

<sup>9</sup>Their offspring will be known among the nations, and their descendants among the peoples.

All who see them will recognize that they are a people blessed by the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>I surely rejoice in the LORD; my heart is joyful because of my God,  
because he has clothed me with clothes of victory,  
wrapped me in a robe of righteousness like a bridegroom in a priestly crown,  
and like a bride adorned in jewelry.

<sup>11</sup>As the earth puts out its growth, and as a garden grows its seeds,  
so the LORD God will grow righteousness and praise before all the nations.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Gospel Lesson**—John 1.6-8, 19-28 (CEB)

<sup>6</sup>A man named John was sent from God. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. <sup>8</sup>He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

<sup>9</sup>This is John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

<sup>20</sup>...John confessed (he didn't deny but confessed), "I'm not the Christ."

<sup>21</sup>They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

John said, "I'm not."

"Are you the prophet?"

John answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup>They asked, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup>John replied,

*"I am a voice crying out in the wilderness, Make the Lord's path straight,  
just as the prophet Isaiah said."*

<sup>24</sup>Those sent by the Pharisees <sup>25</sup>asked, "Why do you baptize if you aren't the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

<sup>26</sup>John answered, "I baptize with water. Someone greater stands among you, whom you don't recognize. <sup>27</sup>He comes after me, but I'm not worthy to untie his sandal straps." <sup>28</sup>This encounter took place across the Jordan in Bethany where John was baptizing.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Children's Message**

### **Sermon**

### **Hymn**

*Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting)*

UMH 210

*All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.*

*All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.*

*Toda la tierra espera al Salvador y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor;  
es el mundo que lucha por la libertad, reclama justiciar y busca la verdad.*

***Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,"  
for his name is "God with us," our brother shall be,  
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.***

***Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel: "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"  
sera "Dios con nosotros," hermano sera, con el la esperanza al mundo volvera.***

*Toda la Tierra / Alberto Taule, Skinner Chavez-Melo / 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House  
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## **Prayers of the People**

**Hymn**

*Star-Child* (v. 5 and refrain)

TFWS 2095

***Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,  
This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

*Star-Child / Shirley Erena Murray, Carlton R. Young / 1994 Hope Publishing Co.  
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## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings**

*Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online ([www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate)) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

**Doxology**

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God* (vv. 1, 5)

UMH 198

***My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.  
Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress.  
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness. Amen.***

*Text used with permission of the Medical Mission Sisters.*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment**

***Generous God, your love renews us and restores our strength.  
With gratitude for your generosity, we offer you a portion of what we have received.  
Receive these gifts along with our prayers and service,  
that your church may be a source of hope for the world.  
In your name, we seek to live and serve and pray, Amen.***

## **We Go Out to Serve in God's Name**

**Hymn**

*The King of Glory Comes*

TFWS 2091

***The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.  
Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.  
The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.  
In all of Galilee, in city or village, he goes among his people curing their illness.***



***The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.  
Sing then of David's son, our Savior and brother; in all of Galilee was never another.  
The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.***

*The King of Glory Comes / Willard F. Jabusch / 1982 admin. by OCP Publications / Used by permission. CCLI License #2333566*

### **Benediction**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,  
anointing us to bring hope to all people.  
Let us go from this time of worship,  
committed to preparing the way for the Lord of Love and Justice.  
***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

### **Postlude**

*Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying*

arr. Max Reger

***Our service of worship is ended.  
Our worship through service now begins.***

### **Pastoral Care, Prayer Requests, and Care Leaders**

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you. While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of “care leaders” who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests. If you have not heard from a “care leader” yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a “care leader,” please contact **Pastor Nathan** at 440-234-3525 x101 or [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org).

### **Staff & Office Hours**

For the protection of all, our staff continues to work from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.

### **Morning Prayer**

Light of the world, you greet me this morning  
with new possibilities.  
Shine brightly, I pray,  
until I see into the dark places of this world  
and into the dark places of my own life.  
I want to follow you in paths of justice,  
to speak up with you for liberty,  
and to bend with you toward the brokenhearted.  
Help me to trade in my faint spirit  
for your mantle of praise,  
and with my whole being I will rejoice in you.  
Amen.

### **Evening Prayer**

Restore me, O God, from the rush of this day.  
Let me dream this night  
of all the great things you have done.  
As the darkness comes  
and these little lights in my house glow,  
I give thanks for the greater Light  
no darkness can overcome.  
To anyone who mourns or fears danger this night,  
bring the peace that only you can give.  
You are faithful,  
and I am grateful for your presence. Amen.

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## **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

### **Thursday, December 24**

Worship with us on Thursday, December 24, in Wesley Hall, on the lawn and sidewalk outside our building, and/or online. Each service will include music, a message of hope, and the traditional sharing of candlelight. Invite your friends, family members, and neighbors, and join us as we celebrate the gift of God's presence with us in Jesus Christ.

#### **4 PM in Wesley Hall**

Please pre-register at [www.umcb.org/worship-registration](http://www.umcb.org/worship-registration) or by calling the church office at **440-234-3525 x100** as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. (Attendance will be limited to 50 individuals.)

#### **7 PM online ([www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos](https://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos))**

This worship service will conclude with an invitation to join us outside or on Zoom at 8:30 PM to light candles and share in the hymn, "Silent Night".

#### **8:30 PM on the Porch and Seminary Street yard & sidewalk**

We will read the Christmas story, light candles, and join our voices in singing "Silent Night".

#### **11 PM in Wesley Hall**

Please pre-register at [www.umcb.org/worship-registration](http://www.umcb.org/worship-registration) or by calling the church office at **440-234-3525 x100** as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. (Attendance will be limited to 50 individuals.)

Face coverings and safe physical distancing (minimum of six feet) from members of other households are required at all times for in-person gatherings and while you are in the building. If you are ill, experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, or recently have been in contact with someone experiencing symptoms, please stay at home and join us for our 7 PM live-streaming worship service.

*Please note that plans for in-person gatherings, both inside and outside, may be subject to change based on advisories and guidance from public health officials.*

*Any changes will be communicated through our website ([www.umcb.org](http://www.umcb.org)) and through email communications (sign up at [www.umcb.org/online-resources](http://www.umcb.org/online-resources)).*



## **Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt**

***This Evening (Sunday, December 13), Start at the Church Between 5-6 PM***

Join us for a fun evening of Christmas light driving and finding! Pick up your scavenger hunt from the church between 5 and 6 PM. Or, if you prefer email delivery of the scavenger hunt, let Pastor Carrie know.

We encourage you to bring food or monetary donation for our local food pantries. You will receive a participation gift as well! Find things on the list like snowmen, angels, mangers, and even unicorns!

Many thanks to Emily and Amanda Kurtz and Hope Antczak for creating our scavenger hunt.

Have a unique Christmas decoration in your yard?

**Pastor Carrie** know at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105** and we'll be sure to get your house on the list!



## **The Longest Night**

***Monday, December 21***

***5 PM in Wesley Hall and 7 PM Online ([www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos](http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos))***

The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. All are welcome to join us on Monday, December 21 at 5 PM in Wesley Hall or 7 PM online for a worship service of scripture, prayer, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Invite others, also, and join us as we affirm together God's presence with us, even in the loneliest of times.



## **Additional Worship Opportunities:**

### **Morning Prayer**

***Mondays through Fridays at 9:00 AM***

***via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/518014483>)***

### **Evening Prayer via Zoom**

***Wednesdays at 7:00 PM***

***via Zoom (Meeting id: 848 4741 1964, Passcode: 195510)***

All are welcome to join us Wednesday evenings for brief worship services to re-center and re-focus together around scripture and prayer in the middle of the week.

For more information, contact **Pastor Nathan** at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x101**.



## **Keep Sharing Your Pictures**

Throughout these past months, many of you have shared with me pictures of God's creation where you have seen God at work, and it has been a joy to share those pictures in our emails for Daily Praise and Prayer. Now that we are into the season of Advent, we would love to be able to share pictures of your home nativity sets, Advent wreaths, or other special decorations.

Please email them to Pastor Nathan any time at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org).





## Advent Study

*Tuesdays, 7 PM, via Zoom*

Join us Tuesdays at 7 pm on zoom to share our reflections on the book *Keep Watch with Me: An Advent Reader for Peacemakers*. The book is available through Amazon or Cokesbury. We suggest ordering it for yourself and having it delivered directly to your home.

Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86909232386?pwd=MjVXY2dIUgIDRGRubUJicE5KdWhlUT09>.

The meeting id is **869 0923 2386**, and the passcode is **170**.

Questions? Contact **Pastor Carrie**  
at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105**.



## A Christmas Eve Sea of Lights

For many of us, perhaps a favorite Christmas Eve tradition has been lighting candles, singing "Silent Night," and looking out on a sea of lights at the conclusion of our Christmas Eve worship services.

To help us enact this in a way that we can during this year's online Christmas Eve worship service, you are invited to send us your candlelight images. Specifically, we would welcome pictures from past Christmas Eve worship services or new still pictures or videos that you can take or record of yourself and/or your family members at home.

If you are taking a new picture or video, consider doing so in a dark room with just a single candle lit but in a way that we can also see you or other people in the image.

Please email them to Pastor Nathan at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) by **December 16** for inclusion in our online Christmas Eve worship service.



## Children's Sunday School

*Request Your Faith Formation Packet by this Tuesday, December 15*

Children and their families received Advent devotional books this month and are growing in Christ together as they prepare for Christmas.

Beginning in January, children will receive a reading list of Bible stories, and Bible study, prayer notes, and worship note pages for each Sunday. Stories will also be read in worship and posted online. This is a great way for families to grow together. Grandparents can even share these stories and resources if they'd like.

To request a faith formation packet, please contact Pastor Carrie [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105** by **December 15**.



## Women's Bible Study

*Thursdays, 6:30 PM, on Zoom*

Thursday Night Bible Study has started a new book, **Matchless** by Angie Smith. *Who is Jesus? Why did He come to earth? How can I know Him? We live in a world where there's a lot of confusion about Jesus. Too often people want to shape Him and His message to fit their personal needs or agendas. So how can we know the truth? Please join us!*

For more information, please contact  
Mary Lynn Swartz at 440-409-5931 or [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com).



## Food Collection for Local Food Pantries

*Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00 PM, In Front of the Red Doors on Seminary Street*

Collections of food for local food banks will continue with some changes. When you drop off your donation pull up to the red doors, flash your lights and beep your horn. A masked church member will come out to accept your donation. If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office or online at [www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate). Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.



## Do Your Holiday Shopping at [ButterPear.com](http://ButterPear.com).

ButterPear is a social enterprise supporting artists in East & West Africa and Refugees here in Cleveland. 100% of our items are HANDMADE and support the artists first. After we sell our products, we use the profits to support various programs. One program includes a house for orphans in Ganta, Liberia which sprung up after the Ebola outbreak. Other programming includes supporting school scholarships in various communities and working with young refugee entrepreneurs here in Cleveland.

We have ornaments, skirts, bags, and baskets! Perfect for a gift with a purpose! Sustainable, Ethical, & Eco-friendly!



**Mark your Calendar - Date correction!**  
**UMW Program - From Served to Servant**  
***Sunday, January 10 (not Tuesday, January 12 as previously announced)***  
***via Zoom***

We all face our challenges in life and there are people who lift us up and strengthen us. God works in us during these times so that we may do the same for others. The UMC of Berea played an enormous role in molding me to be the Servant I am today as Deaconess and a pastor's wife. For this I am grateful.

- Deaconess Sherri Buehl