



Hope Peace Joy Love

Worship Celebration

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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)

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

Good News from Heaven the Angels Bring

J. Pachelbel

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

Mighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us today.

We long to align our lives with yours.

As we follow in Mary's footsteps this day,

open our hearts, that we might be filled with your goodness and love.

Live in us, that we might bear the light of Christ for all to see.

Overshadow us with your presence, that we might truly be blessed,

offering your blessing of love to the world. Amen.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1-4)

UMH 211

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

God does not come from nowhere but through a people, through a family,
in a specific time and place:

Through an angel, God speaks to Mary:

“You will conceive and give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the name Jesus,... and his reign shall never end.”

Through Mary, God speaks to us:

“My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, whose name is holy,
who has routed the proud and all their schemes,
brought down monarchs from their thrones,...
raised on high the lowly, filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.”

We light our fourth candle as a sign of God's love,
shining in the world through people, both past and present.

Living God, come to our world.

*Thank you for meeting us in real people,
whose stories we can remember and share. Amen.*

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 5 and refrain)

UMH 211

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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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—Luke 1.26-38 (CEB)

²⁶ When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” ²⁹ She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said, “Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹ Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³ He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?”

³⁵ The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. ³⁶ Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God.”

³⁸ Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

UMH 216

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.
O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming / Theodore Baker, Michael Praetorius / 1971 The Church Pension Fund
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Second Lesson—Luke 1.46-55 (CEB)

⁴⁶ Mary said,

“With all my heart I glorify the Lord! ⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

⁴⁸ He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored

⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

⁵² He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵ just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.”

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon & A 2020 Pandemic Nativity Play

Mary - Leslie Bell

Shepherds

Angel Reporters

Joseph - Zach Potts

Becca Morrison

Faith - Elizabeth Philpot

Gabriel - Mitchell McVeigh

Zach Morrison

Love - Courtney Popp

Elizabeth - Rebecca Zeiter

Hope - Grace Dahl

Zechariah - Eric Zeiter

Prayers of the People
Hymn

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.***

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel / Bob McGee / 1976 C.A. Music (a div. of Christian Artists Corp.)
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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) 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

***May these offerings and our lives, O God, glorify you, for surely, we are blessed.
We rejoice in the mercy you have shown us from generation to generation.
We remember the powerful promise you bring:
hope to the hopeless and strength to the weak.
With joy, we pray in gratitude and praise. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

***Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!
Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.
Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!***

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Benediction

May the good news of Jesus Christ dwell in our hearts and in our lives.
And may the power of the Holy Spirit be with us and lead us forward
as we continue in our Advent waiting.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Swiss Noel

Louis C. Daquin

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

Morning Prayer

Expectant God,
Mary sings because she has new life in her,
the promise of your salvation.
Fill me with hope this day
as I lift my life to you
and seek to do your will.
Look with favor on our world
and all who are in need,
that your love may be magnified
as I follow humbly in your way. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Lord, as I come to you seeking rest this night,
I pray that all may find a home in you,
be disturbed by no one,
and be free of all afflictions,
for you, O God, are mighty to save.
Amen.

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Please note:

Due to the extended stay-at-home advisory (through January 15), we have suspended all in-person gatherings, including worship. Changes to our schedule are indicated with double asterisks below.



The Longest Night

Monday, December 21

7 PM Online (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.

****The 5 PM in-person service in Wesley Hall has been canceled.**

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Thursday, December 24

Worship with us on Thursday, December 24, online and/or on the lawn and sidewalk outside our building. Our 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.



7 PM online (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".

****The 4 PM and 11 PM in-person worship services in Wesley Hall have been canceled.**



Additional Worship Opportunities:

Morning Prayer

Mondays through Fridays

9 AM, via Zoom

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

Evening Prayer via Zoom

Wednesdays

7 PM, via Zoom

(Meeting id: 848 4741 1964, Passcode: 195510)

All are welcome to join us 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 or 440-234-3525 x101.



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=MjVXY2dIUGlDRGRubUJicE5KdWhlUT09>.

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

Questions? Contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.



Disciple Fast Track

Sundays beginning January 3, 9:45-11 AM, via Google Meet

Have you ever wanted to learn about the WHOLE Bible and what it means to be a Disciple? Whether you are curious about faith, new to Christianity, or have been a Christian your whole life, this Bible study will give you the opportunity to get a big picture look at the Bible. Join us for deep discussion and spiritual care. This is an online Bible study using Google Meet, so it doesn't matter your location! Expect about 15-20 minutes a day of "homework". And yes, we will cover MOST of the Bible in the course of a year, but just the Old Testament this winter/spring.

Please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105** to sign up ASAP, so we can get you a book. We begin January 3, but anticipate new members joining throughout the month.



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.



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. Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.



UMW Sunday Program
Sunday, January 10, 11 AM Worship Service
(www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)
Followed by a Discussion Via Zoom

UMW Sunday will be January 10. Deaconess Sherri Buell will be joining us at the 11:00 AM service with a Zoom discussion session to follow at noon. Deaconess Buell offers this information about her sermon:

From Served to Servant

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.

Please join us January 10, 2021 to celebrate the role of United Methodist Women in our Church and around the world.

Pastoral Care, Prayer Requests, and Care Leaders

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** (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.

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.