

Hope Peace

# Worship Celebration

*Second Sunday of Advent*

December 6, 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

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*God, we are confident you are coming, bringing a world where all will be made right.*

*Help us to imagine the new world you envision.*

*Help us to perceive ourselves in it.*

*Calm our anxiety, strengthen our patience, and keep our hope aflame,  
as we work toward and wait for your new day. Amen.*

Hymn

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

UMH 203

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!*

*Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!*

*He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.*

*He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned to dying, are precious in his sight.*

*He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.*

*To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.*

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## Lighting the Second Advent Candle

A prophet speaks, and a psalmist sings, telling us how God will come:

“Comfort my people, bring comfort to them, says your God....

Clear a road through the wilderness....

Prepare a highway across the desert for our God....

Then will the glory of God be revealed and all humankind shall see it....”

“Love and faithfulness will come together. Justice and peace will embrace.”

We light our second candle as a prayer of hope and longing,  
that God’s glory may be revealed on earth, through justice, peace, and faithful love.

Living God, come to our world.

***Help us to recognize your presence wherever people make peace, show kindness,  
keep their promises, and do what is right. Amen.***

## Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 6 and refrain)

UMH 211

***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.***

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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—Isaiah 40.1-11 (CEB)

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people! says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,

and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended,

that her penalty has been paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins!

<sup>3</sup> A voice is crying out:

“Clear the LORD’s way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!

<sup>4</sup> Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be flattened.

Uneven ground will become level, and rough terrain a valley plain.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD’s glory will appear, and all humanity will see it together;  
the LORD’s mouth has commanded it.”

<sup>6</sup> A voice was saying: “Call out!”

And another said, “What should I call out?”

All flesh is grass; all its loyalty is like the flowers of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass dries up and the flower withers when the LORD’s breath blows on it.  
Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass dries up; the flower withers, but our God's word will exist forever.

<sup>9</sup>Go up on a high mountain, messenger Zion!

Raise your voice and shout, messenger Jerusalem!

Raise it; don't be afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>Here is the LORD God, coming with strength, with a triumphant arm, bringing his reward with him and his payment before him.

<sup>11</sup>Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock;

he will gather lambs in his arms and lift them onto his lap.

He will gently guide the nursing ewes.

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

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

### **Gospel Lesson—Mark 1.1-8 (CEB)**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, <sup>2</sup>happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

*Look, I am sending my messenger before you.*

*He will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup>a voice shouting in the wilderness:*

*"Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight."*

<sup>4</sup>John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. <sup>5</sup>Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

### **Children's Message**

#### **Sermon**

#### **Prayers of the People**

##### **Hymn**

*Star-Child* (v. 7 and refrain)

TFWS 2095

***Grown child, old child, memory full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears,  
This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!***

*Star-Child* / Shirley Erena Murray, Carlton R. Young / 5<sup>3</sup>3 8 Hope Publishing Co. / Used by permission. CCLI License 3 67779<sup>00</sup>

#### **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. 5, 9)

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.

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*In these extraordinary circumstances, you are invited this morning to have prepared Communion elements or a simple piece of bread ready to receive as we participate together in the holy mystery of Communion, even while we remain physically apart. We will receive the elements at the same time, though not in the same place, trusting that through the presence of the Holy Spirit, our sharing is sacramental as our spirits interact with God's and with one another's. If the risen Christ really is present in all times and places, then surely Christ really is present among us even now. There is no substitute for gathering together in person; however, through God's grace, we trust that we still are held in communion with God and with one another.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You form us in your image and breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away, forgetting to stay alert, failing to love as you love, your love remains steadfast and sure.

You do not forget your promises, and your love never fails.

You deliver us from captivity, shape us as your covenant people,  
and speak to us through your prophets.

You call us to stay alert, to give our attention to you,  
and to live as your people in every time and place.

And so, with your people on earth, the whole creation, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name, joining their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Holy are you and blessed is your holy name.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word in Jesus Christ, as a fragile baby, as a mighty prophet, as a wise teacher, as a loving savior, to reveal your presence in the world.

Healing and teaching, proclaiming and prophesying,

Christ continues to reveal your presence to us now.

Through Christ's powerful love and endless welcome, we are invited into your presence, rescued from our sin,  
and led on your path of justice and peace.

On the night before his death, we remember that Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:

"Receive, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, shared it, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these and all your mighty acts of grace, we offer ourselves now in praise and thanksgiving as children of the One who is and was and is to come.

We offer ourselves as children of your time and of your timing—

children seeking to live your loving presence in the world, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood, the life and love, of Christ,  
that we may be the body of Christ for the world, redeemed and renewed by your grace.  
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world,  
until Christ comes again, welcoming all people to feast at your table.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

### Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn

*Wait for the Lord*

TFWS 3049

***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!  
Prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight path for God. Prepare the way for the Lord.  
Rejoice in the Lord always: God is at hand. Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord.  
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. All the earth will see the Lord.  
I waited for the Lord. God heard my cry.  
Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, our God.  
Seek first the kingdom of God. Seek and you shall find.  
O Lord show us your way. Guide us in your truth.***

*Wait for the Lord / Jacque Berthier / 5<sup>332</sup> Les Presses de Taize France; GIA Publications, Inc.  
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### Prayer following Communion

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

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

Hymn

*Heralds of Christ*

UMH 567

***Heralds of Christ, who bear the King's commands, immortal tidings in your mortal hands,  
pass on and carry swift the news you bring; make straight, make straight the highway of the King.  
Through desert ways, dark fen, and deep morass, through jungles, sluggish seas, and mountain pass,  
build now the road, and falter not, nor stay; prepare across the earth the King's highway.  
Lord, give us faith and strength the road to build, to see the promise of the day fulfilled,  
when war shall be no more, and strife shall cease upon the highway of the Prince of Peace.***

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### Benediction

Let us live in such a way that we are living toward the coming day of God—  
the day of love and faithfulness, the day of righteousness and peace.  
Let us go now in the confidence that all things are possible in and through God's grace.  
***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

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

### ***Morning Prayer***

Lord, how I love this season of new beginnings,  
the opportunity to turn toward you and start  
again.

Empower me to be a messenger of good news,  
and a leveling influence along the way,  
as I seek to be one with you  
in smoothing out the rough places of this world.  
Amen.

### ***Evening Prayer***

Lord, you have comforted me throughout this  
day  
and rescued me from my exile.

Where I have flourished, I give you thanks;  
where I have erred, I ask your forgiveness.  
Protect me through the night  
that I may rest in your realm of peace  
where righteousness makes a home.  
Amen.

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Copyright 2013.*

### **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.



### **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.



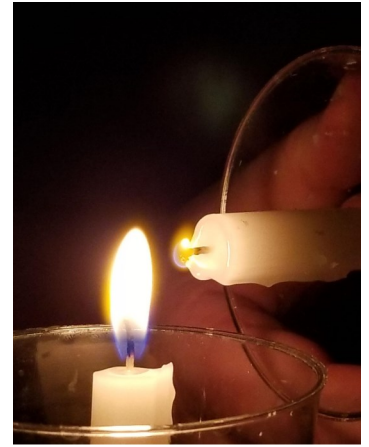
## **The Longest Night**

**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.



## **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](http://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 live-streaming worship service at 7 PM.

*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

**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 on December 13. 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!



## 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).



## 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 10** for inclusion in our online Christmas Eve worship service.



## 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](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105**.



## Children's Sunday School

**Request Your Faith Formation Packet by 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).



## Thank you for your support of the Giving Tree.

All of our children have been "adopted"!

Remember to return the gift(s) for your children by **December 13**. Please, do not wrap it! Place it in a bag with the child's family number and the name of the gift on the outside. Betsy Meikle will be in the church parking lot in a silver Toyota on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 11 am to 1 pm to receive the gifts. Or, if you are in the building, there is a collection box in the Gathering Place.



## Remember or Honor a Loved One by Helping Others

The Magi came bearing gifts, and began the tradition of gift-giving to celebrate the birth of Christ. We join them this year, offering our gifts to support our community. In lieu of poinsettias this year, we invite you to make a financial gift to support three of our mission partners - OhioGuidestone, Grindstone Elementary Emergency Fund, and Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. While we will have some poinsettias for our Christmas services, we will also have a tree decorated with stars, in honor or memory of your loved ones or families. Make any size donation and a star will be put on our tree with the name your request.

Donations may be mailed to the church, marking "Magi" in the other box. Donations can also be made and forms completed at [www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate). Forms and donations must be returned /submitted online by **December 13**.

*A full list of those remembered or honored will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin as well as the January Caller.*



## 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