

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent    December 18, 2022    9:30am

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Gathering

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

One: We gather in preparation.

**All: For good news is about to be proclaimed.**

One: We gather in expectation.

**All: For joy is about to explode in our midst.**

One: We gather in celebration.

**All: For we are those who have said: Yes, to the manger; yes, to love made flesh; yes, to the one incarnate for others; yes, to the wholeness of God.**

**One:** With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

\*Opening Hymn        "There's a Song in the Air"        No. 249

\*Advent Candle Lighting

One: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

**All: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.**

One: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and you healing shall spring up quickly.

**All: Your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.**

*(Three purple candles and one pink candle are lit)*

One: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

**All: And all the people will see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

\*Opening Prayer

**Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. As once he came in humility, so now may he come in glory, that he may make all things perfect in your everlasting kingdom. For he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Reading        Isaiah 7:10-16

\*Hymn        "O Little Town of Bethlehem"        No. 230

Scripture Reading        Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon        Pastor Sam

Pastoral Prayer

\*Closing Hymn        "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"        No. 240

\*Benediction

Pastor Sam Moore  
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**We invite you to keep the following people in your prayers**

Tammy Baskaran, Bruce Beckman, Michael Brick, family of Michael Britt, Dave Calloway, **Family of Diane Cross**, Csanady Family, **Steve Dawson**, Carolyn and Jim Deverin, **Family of Bill Dietz**, Jessica Favret, Pat Finley, **Baby Graham Geschke**, Brenda and Georges Guerrier, Diane Hild, Paul and Judy Hoffman, Savannah Hosmer, Ellie Hunter, family of Dean Jestes, Family of Doug Kennedy, Family of Billy Knight, Kurek family, **Billy Lewis**, Ed Massey, Henry Meyers, Family of Cecile Michon, family of Kirk Miller, Brian Morton, **Gail Phillips Smith and Miles Smith**, Theresa Schmitt and the Mullins children, Family of Bob Quisenberry, Scott Robert, Family of Ed Scott,

Pat Sievers, Jill Spicher, Sharon Truedel, **Family of James Turnbull**, Kim Welkner's mother, Jamie Whitehead, family of Reds Williams, Tom Wimsatt

**Long-term prayer concerns:** Karyn Brandel, **Coolidge Family**, **Cunningham Family**, Jerry Fowler, Karen Goles, Shirly Graham, Richard Giffin, Robin Jones, Barbara Maury, Anna Catherine Miller, Mary Jo Ridgely, Dustin Summers, Harding Wescott, Ryan Whitehead and his family, Tony Zile

**Christmas Eve Services**

Emory UMC – 5:00 PM  
Gary Memorial UMC – 7:00 PM

**Thank you** to our Greeters and Ushers – Shannon and Ron Whitehead

**Thank you** to our Liturgist – Brooks Morton