

December 15, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Prayer Time

**Order for Our Worship of God**

(\*those who are able are invited to stand)

Welcome

Prelude "The First Noel" ~ Handbell Choir

\*Opening Hymn "Joy to the World" (vs. 1, 2, 4) No. 246

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Choral Introduction "Lift Up Your Eyes"

*Reader One:* No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

***Congregation:* Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

*Reader Two:* We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

*Light the third (pink) candle of the Advent wreath.*

Choral and Congregation Response "Lift Up Your Eyes" Insert

The Giving of Our Offering

Offertory "Joy to the World" arr. Bennett

\*Presentation "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (vs. 4 & refrain) No.220

\*Prayer of Dedication

**God of Joy, You fill our hearts with gladness and remind us to see the blessings all around us. We offer these gifts as a response to Your abundant grace. May what we give today spread Your joy to those who feel weary and forgotten. Bless these offerings, that they may bring life and light to our community and beyond. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

Scripture Reading Luke 1:46-55

Homily "Choose Joy" Rev. JongIn Lee

CANTATA "A Song Is Born" Nolan

\*Blessing

Postlude "Joy to the World" arr. Hustad

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**WE WELCOME ALL** to this service of worship including newcomers and visitors among us.

**PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE** ~ Rev. JongIn Lee, Pastor; Dr. Russell Wagoner, Director of Music/Organist; and Pat Andrews, Liturgist. We appreciate them sharing their gifts with us as we gather to worship and praise God today!

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY** ~ All are invited to the final Advent Bible study, Session 3 on Wednesday, December 18, 1:00 PM: "The Gift of Presence" | Luke 2:8-14 (The Angels and the Shepherds).

**BOOK CLUB NEWS** ~ The Christmas Luncheon & Book Swap is planned for Tuesday, December 17, 12 noon, at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes. There will not be a December book to discuss but please bring a wrapped book, new or old, for the exchange. Please RSVP to Pat Andrews if you will be attending the luncheon.

**2024 CLOSE THE GAP** ~ Here's our progress on Closing the Gap. We have crossed the \$20,000 mark—the total is \$20,768. We are 38% toward achieving our goal. Please passionately and prayerfully consider helping us close the gap and fund all our ministries.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** ~ We invite all to share in the joy and peace of Christmas at our special Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, December 24, at 5:00 PM.

**BLESSED BARGAINS THRIFT SHOP** ~ The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am–2pm to shop and drop off donations (but closed this month on Thursday, December 26). Please see the sign-up sheet in the donation room for open time slots when help is needed. Please contact Barbara Doka or Joan Pandorf with any questions.

**FLOWER CALENDAR** ~ The 2025 flower calendar is now posted listing all the Sundays in the new year. Sign up for the dates when you would like to order flowers for the altar. Speak to Elaine Watson for details or any special requests.

**MITTEN TREE** ~ You can give the gift of warmth by decorating the mitten tree in the narthex with a new scarf or hat or gloves or mittens, which will then be brought to CUMAC to help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

**PASTOR:** *Rev. JongIn Lee*

**LAY LEADER:** *Dave Murray*

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST:** *Dr. Russell Wagoner*

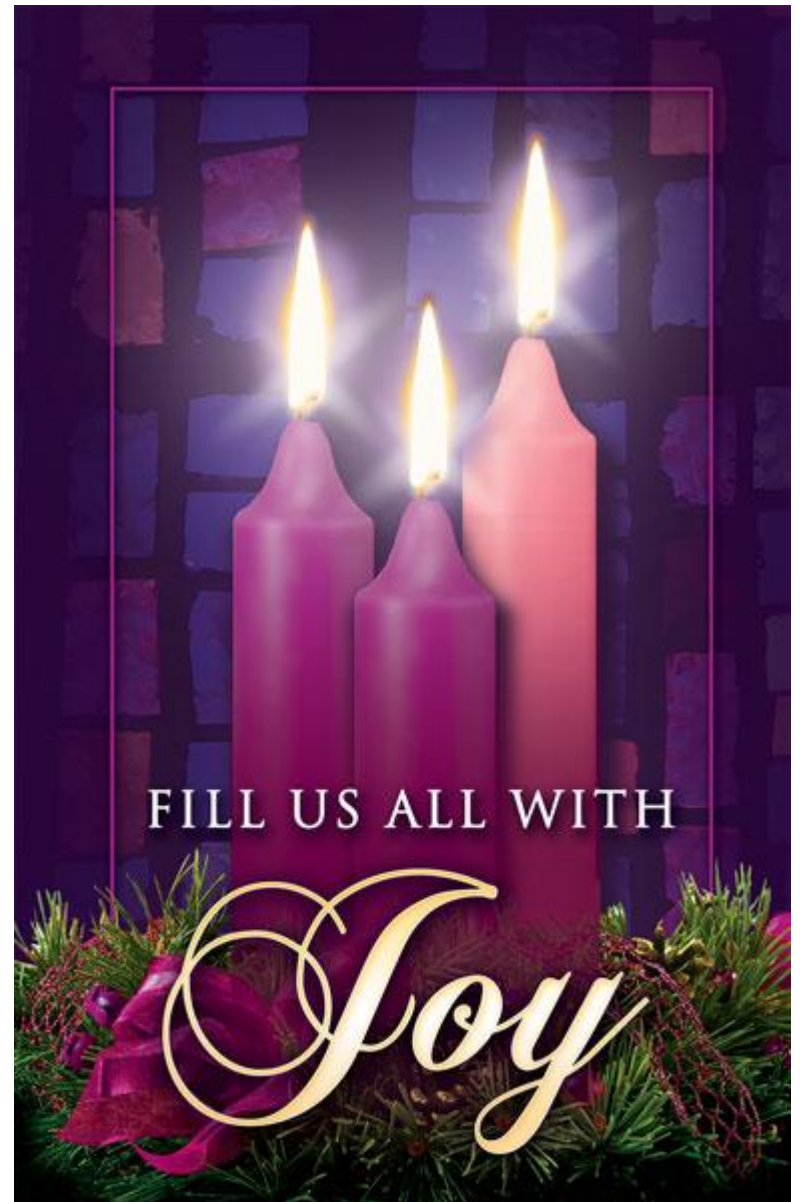
**SECRETARY:** *Donna E. Mulder*

**SEXTON:** *Bonnie Mann*

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*a center of community sharing God's love*

Rev. JongIn Lee, Pastor