



**Order of Worship
November 29, 2020
10:30am**

Welcome

Call to Worship

Into Mary's ordinary life, the angel broke, announcing something new, something that would change everything.

Into our lives, and into the world, God longs to come, bringing new life, bringing hope.

But there's so much to do, life is so busy.

And so much struggle in the world, so much hurt and pain.

Yet into the mess of the world, Jesus came, and into the mess of our lives, He still comes.

ALL: Let every heart, starting with mine, make room for the coming of Jesus this season.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Advent Prayer

Eternal and ever-present God, we thank you for meeting us in worship today. Break into our hearts as we sing and pray and listen. Give us a fresh vision of hope, for weary hearts and a hurting world. Then, help us to not only wait for the hope that you will bring, but to dedicate our lives to offering that hope in tangible ways to those whose hearts you allow us to touch. We ask it all in the name of Jesus, the hope of the world. Amen.

Opening Praise Songs

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
James Craig Bazen and Praise Team

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heav'nly Father,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

Fear not then, said the Angel
Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

What Child Is This?
James Craig Bazen and Praise Team

What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping
This, this is Christ the king
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding

The end of fear for all who hear
The silent Word is speaking
This, this is Christ the king
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh
Come peasant king to love him;
The king of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone him
This, this is Christ the king
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him praise
The babe, the son of Mary

Scripture

Selections from Isaiah

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Isaiah 9:6

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³ who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

Hymn of Preparation

Advent Song
James Craig Bazen

Scripture

Revelation 21:1-14, 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

²¹ And the twelve gates are twelve pearls, each of the gates is a single pearl, and the street of the city is pure gold, transparent as glass.

Scripture

John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater

works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Prayer of Preparation

Sermon

Heaven on Earth: Look Up
Pastor Jennifer

Pastoral Prayer

Song of Response

Star-Child (TFWS#2095)
James Craig Bazen and Eric Paździora

Star-Child, earth-Child,
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightning rod,

Refrain:

This year, this year
let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!

Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
hurt child, used child,
no one wants to know,

Refrain:

This year, this year
let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!

Grown child, old child,
memory full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears,

Refrain:

This year, this year
let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!

Invitation to Offering

Offering Song

Eric Paździora

Endowment Video

Welcoming of Visitors and Invitation to Review Announcements

Closing Song

Joy to the World (UMH#246)
James Craig Bazen and Praise Team

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Benediction Prayer and Dismissal with Blessing

Thank you God for wanting good for me and for giving good things to me.

Thank you God for my church that gives to others through my giving.

Thank you God for letting me give back to You as my offering.

Thank you God for the family and community You have given me.

Teach me God to give to You and others, like You give to me.

Guide me God to serve as you have taught us to serve.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING TUESDAY

This year Epworth is joining millions of non-profits across the world by utilizing Giving Tuesday to raise funds for varying needs within the church. Please consider supporting Epworth's efforts on Giving Tuesday, December 1. The web link is open and will be available until December 6.

Epworth has a number of areas you can choose to support. One we are very excited about has a 100% match up to \$6,500! This special fund will help to raise a minimum of \$10,000 to set up an endowment fund in honor of Derek and Linda Harps and their many years of service to Epworth. This will be a great way to thank both as Derek retires this year from his 15-year role, through 3 different pastors, as Executive Lead.

Other funds available to donate to for Giving Tuesday are:

- Christmas Outreach – this will provide food for nearly 280 families and gift cards for gifts for the children.
- Capital – to provide funds to replace the carpet in the Sanctuary in 2021.
- IT – to provide funds for running cables the Sanctuary as we have full access when the carpet is being replaced and continuing to upgrade our digital platforms and infrastructure.
- General Operating – this supports general operating costs of the church.

Checks can be mailed to the church with "Giving Tuesday and the fund above" indicated on the memo line. Donations can also be made electronically using the link <https://givebutter.com/EpworthGivingTuesday> or by texting "EpworthGiving" to 202-858-1233. Thank you in advance for your donations. They are greatly appreciated.

A Little Background on Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global day of generosity that will take place on December 1, 2020. Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past nine years, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Today is the last day to order poinsettias for Christmas. Please order online at www.EpworthUnited.org/flowers or email Elsa at adminasst@eumc-md.org with the following information:

- Your name
- Red or white poinsettia

- In memory of or in honor of: _____

Payment may be made by mailing a check or by donating through the church website and choosing *Flowers*.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH AT EPWORTH

During this COVID19 reality, our community outreach continues to be tied intimately to food distribution. Similar to our Thanksgiving plans, we will be celebrating Christmas with the families we are supporting on an ongoing basis.

Sunday Dec 20th we will offer food boxes to all 270 families we serve in two waves of cars. There will be no food distribution on Sunday December 28th in order to give our volunteer team a break.

On Sunday December 20th we aspire to the following:

- A box of food per household including produce, staples, and chicken. (Our standard Sunday box)
- Small Christmas gift bags for children in these families including candy, treats, little gifts.
- A gift card Christmas gift per child for our children not already sponsored through outside entity. These gift cards would be between \$10-20 per child depending on the amount of funds we as a congregation can give.

Beginning now, we are collecting monetary special offerings to purchase goodie bags and gift cards for children for these 200+ families. Contributions can be made to the fund designated "Rosemont" but will be shared between children of all our partners Forest Oak, Summit Hall, Rosemont, Ana A Brito Foundation, and Mujer Fuerza y Coraje. Please consider supporting families during this very hard Christmas time. We estimate we could need as much as \$10,000 to supply these needs as we served at least 500 children in Back to School. Many partner entities who usually support Christmas giving are unable to do so given COVID so we are grateful to support as we can.

Second – for those who are interested, we have identified 15+ families between our partners who have very deep need. These families can be sponsored for Christmas. A Sign-Up Genius is on our website with 15 slots. The pastoral team will work with sponsoring entities to coordinate details for each family, including the best form to give (gift cards or gifts) and how to get the gifts to the family in a safe way. In the interest of logistics, we ask that you sponsor the whole family- meaning a commitment to a food support and a gift or gift card for each child/youth and a token treat for the adult(s). Once you sign up the pastoral team will provide you with interests, gender, size of family members. These gifts will need to be ready for distribution the week of December 14.

CONTINUING FOOD DISTRIBUTION INTO 2021

We continue to be grateful for the Lords Table who shares all expenses with us, including daily trips to Costco, Sam's Club, Trader Joe's for free food, Montgomery County who provides free to us fresh produce, Manna Food recovery program where volunteers bring us

gleaned food from local farms, and to a Manna Food grant to support staple canned goods. Our primary food distribution expenses are extra U-Haul boxes to supplement donations and weekly portions of fresh chicken, breakfast cereals, Maseca/flour and oil for each family.

We intend to continue food distribution into 2021 and are grateful for your generous gifts to the Pastors Discretionary which is the only way we are able to sustain this outreach. We do not know when this will end. We know the community is hungry and need is great.

Please see our Sign-Up Genius on our website to sign up to help.

Hope

An Advent Journey

Join us as we share the Hope found in Jesus Christ this Christmas season.

Saturday Dec 5
7pm Special time of Contemporary Worship and Praise
led by Destiny with Eric and Nancy supporting

Saturday Dec 12
7pm Prayer and Contemplative Piano Service

Sunday Dec 13
9:00 Traditional Worship - Live Streamed only
11:00 Special Christmas Worship
with Invited Instrumentalists and Solo Vocals

Tuesday Dec 15
7pm Communion Service with Piano and Prayer

Thursday Dec 24 - Christmas Eve
5:00pm Family Service including Youth music virtually
7:00 Christmas Celebration with Special Music
10:30 Special Music with Peter Fields on acoustic guitar
11:00-12midnight Candlelight Communion Service

Friday Dec 25 - Christmas Day
10am Service - Live streamed only

Thursday Dec 31 - New Year's Eve
10:30-midnight - Watchnight Service

Sunday Jan 3 - Epiphany Three Kings

PRAYER MINISTRY

Join us for informal prayer services Tuesday evenings at 6pm and Wednesday mornings at 6am. Spanish prayer service is Tuesdays at 8:30pm. See the links on the website to join.

TRANSFORMED BY FAITH TODAY

Beginning each weekday, November 29 through January 1, the daily podcast will include a specially selected Christmas hymn. Click the *Transformed by Faith TODAY* link on the church website, on our YouTube channel, *Epworth Productions*, or on our Facebook page *@EpworthUnited*. Take a few moments each day to sit back and enjoy these inspirational messages from your staff and leaders.

FAMILY ADVENT BOXES

Advent boxes are available for ALL families and includes a devotional, fun activities, and Advent schedule, and more. Staff are not onsite every day, so please sign up to pick up your box at <https://EpworthUnited.org/sparks>

COMMUNION SERVICES

The weekly Holy Communion Services have been moved to Tuesday evenings at 5:30pm. These are in person, outdoor services located on the front portico of the church. There is a current maximum of 10 persons each week so please register in advance at <https://EpworthHolyCommunion.eventbrite.com>

OFFICE HELP NEEDED

With staff working remotely and restrictions on who can enter the building, assistance is sometimes needed to perform on-site administrative tasks such as printing. If you are able to help in this area, please contact Denise at denise.anderson@eumc-md.org

EBLAST

If you do not currently receive the Eblast each week, please email Denise at communications@eumc-md.org to sign up. It's the best way to stay up to date on all things Epworth!

TO JOIN A LIFE GROUP email disciple@eumc-md.org

Tuesdays 7pm English

Facilitators: Beeler, Fenner, Shelley

Thursdays 7pm Young Adults, English

Facilitator: Castillo

Thursdays 12:30pm English

Facilitator: Pastor Jen (temp)

Martes 7pm grupo, Jueves 8:30pm oración en español

Facilitadores: Mora, Uberhuaga

Viernes 7pm Español - mayormente oración

Facilitador: Gallegos

Jueves 7pm Español

Facilitador: Rocha

Sundays 12noon English

Facilitators: Wilson, Conteh

THE UPPER ROOM

The November/December issue is available online. You can find the link on the church website, in the Eblast, or we can email you a PDF copy. Email communications@eumc-md.org for a PDF.
