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EVANGEL HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Worship 9:30 a.m.

YouTube: Evangel Heights UMC

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Pastor Michelle Cobb

Breakthrough Prayer

**People: Lord, interrupt us to be fearlessly obedient to your plans;
challenge us to act on those opportunities.**

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Mrs. Katy Monroe

Call to Worship

Pastor Michelle Cobb

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel *with* Emmanuel

All

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Marilyn Moutray and Jeff Wiley

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Prayers of the People (*substitute "sin" for "trespass"*)

Brian Clear

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Song

Come, Let Us Dream

All

Children's Message

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV, pg. 1588)
(please stand if you are able)

Brian Clear

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

People: Thanks be to God

Special Music

He Shall Reign Forevermore
Tomlin & Maher

Rick Van Wechel

Message

Love that Transforms Us

Pastor Michelle Cobb

Giving of our First Fruits

Offertory

Bless These Gifts

Bless these gifts, O Lord. Please use them as you may.
We praise you; we lift you up. Accept our thanks for today.
Bless our lives, O Lord. Now use us as you may.
We praise you; we lift you up. Dwell in us we pray.

Missional Moment

Closing Hymn

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

All

Benediction

Postlude

Thank you to those who contributed poinsettias for the Sanctuary:

David & Bobbie Anderson	In memory of our family members
Pam Bliley	In memory of John, Dan, and parents
Crystal Clear	In honor of her family
Dennis & Christy Clements	
Pastor Michelle	In honor of Mrs. Lovella Tindal & family, In honor of The Evangel Heights Community of Faith
Donna Hill	In memory of Willard Hill
Nan Hussey	In memory of Charles & Alice Hussey
David J. Irwin and Stacey E. Irwin	In memory of David C. Irwin and Merrus E. Irwin, Ned and Elsie Sowle, and John and Vivian Hoctel
Kent & Edna Kaeppler	In honor of our families and grandchildren
Marilyn Moutray	In honor of my children
Lee Rarick and Karen O'Shea	In appreciation of Pastor Michelle
Sande Stanley	In memory of Jessie Richards
Andrew & Elizabeth Turba	In honor of Don & Gene Bennion, In memory of Lydia Turba
Shirley Wise	In honor of Christ



O Come, O Come Emmanuel *with* Emmanuel

UMH 211 vs.5-7/UMH 204 (2x)

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.

Refrain:

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

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thy justice here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

[Refrain]

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
Deliver us from earthly strife.

[Refrain]

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

(Repeat)

Come, Let Us Dream

W&S 3157

Come, let us dream God's dream again
Come, one and all, let us ascend
The mountain top where those of old
Saw God's new day on earth unfold.

The lame shall walk, the blind shall see,
The doors swing wide, all prisoners free,
The lowly raised, the proud brought low.
This is God's dream: let justice flow.

When hatred ends and war shall cease,
So all may dwell in deepest peace,
Then be assured the time is near
When perfect love casts out all fear.

But know the cost of claiming sight
Of God's new day, of wrongs made right,
For some have paid the highest price,
Their lives for us, a sacrifice.

Prophets are scorned in their own lands
And martyrs slain by righteous hands;
Though dreamers die the dream will live
For we have yet our lives to give.

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

UMH 198 vs. 1-3,5

My soul gives glory to my God,
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me:
Yes, holy is this Name.
All people will declare me blessed,
And blessings they shall claim.

From age to age to all who fear,
Such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near,
Dismissing selfish hearts.

Praise God, whose loving covenant
Supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises
With present faithfulness.