

Broad Street United Methodist Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Welcome to the Broad Street United Methodist Church.

We are happy you are here today.

The order of worship is found in this bulletin.

*Indicates congregation stands, if able.

PRELUDE

Judy Schetler

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor James

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Sourwine Family

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 God 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)

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 the gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

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.

We light these four Advent 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.**

*HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218

OPENING PRAYER (pray together)

Rev. Dr. Helen Rainier

Dear Father in heaven, you sent the angel Gabriel to see Mary, a virgin who had found favor with YOU. She was told she would give birth to our Savior. Mary was a chosen one. We pray to be in your favor, O Father. We hold your name high and pray for you to enter our hearts during this season of holiness. We pray to be your chosen ones. Amen.

HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UMH 224

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Dr. Helen Rainier

ANTHEM

While Shepherds Watched Their Sheep arr. Jungst

Sanctuary Choir

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Doug Papp

Dear Lord in heaven, be with us on this Christmas Eve Sunday. Help us to know your word. Help us to see the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. They were amazed at what was happening. As they looked at baby Jesus, did they know what the future held? Grant us the ability to be in awe of what was happening so long ago in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

adapted from *The Voices of Christmas*, Joseph Martin

PSALTER READING Psalm 89:1-4, 19-37 Sung Response 1 Led by Doug Papp UMH 807-8

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39-56 Rev. Dr. Helen Rainier

THE MESSAGE *The Mother of My Lord* Pastor James

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE (pray responsively)

Doug Papp

JESUS - He came not to a throne,
but to a manger.

JESUS - He lived not as a king,
but as a servant.

JESUS - He chose not a kingdom,
but a cross.

JESUS - He gave not just a little,
but everything.

Now let us pray for those dear to our hearts. We pray for _____

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer. Amen.

- Holley Gerth (adapted)

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

UMH 12

CONFESSION AND PARDON

THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

Away In A Manger

UMH 217

DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

UMH 15

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

WE SCATTER TO SERVE CHRIST IN THE WORLD

*HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

*WORDS OF BLESSING (pray together)

Pastor James

The message of Christmas falls on the lonely ears of the world like gentle snow. It rests tenderly on the heart and wraps tired spirits in a warm blanket of assurance and love. In the ringing of the church bells and the singing of treasured carols we affirm our hope found in Jesus Christ. Help us listen for God's still small voice whispering from a manger. Amen.

adapted from The Voices of Christmas, Joseph Martin

POSTLUDE

Judy Schetler

NOTE: CCLI license # 303359 grants BSUMC permission to reproduce words and music for congregational singing and streaming our worship service.



Please remember our families and friends in prayer

John Robert Chitester, Evelyn Kraft, Mike Levesque, Dale Crocker,
Herb Tomer, Sharon Durazolapaugh, Susan Curlett, Lina Jaskot, Cindy Kenneally

Requests for inclusion on the prayer list, removal from the list, or to have a name remain on the list longer than two weeks can be emailed to:

office@broadstumc.org or placed in the offering plate.

Please continue to pray for those on the prayer list in previous weeks.



**Join us tonight at 7:00 PM
for a
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**



Check out the church website (www.broadstumc.org) for more information on upcoming activities.

THIS WEEK:

Sunday, December 24, 2023 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00PM



Planning ahead... mark your calendars

Sunday, December 31, 2023 – NO Sunday School
Sunday, December 31, 2023 – Worship 11:00AM

Christmas
card

Today is the last day to 'mail' your cards. Bring last minute cards this evening. Please check the mail slots in the chapel for any cards sent to you.

Post
Office

The illustration features a large, stylized letter 'C' with a striped pattern. To the left of the 'C' is a gift box with a bow. To the right of the 'C' is a Christmas stocking. To the right of the 'C' is a mailbox with a letter inside. The mailbox has a holly leaf design on its front. The text 'Christmas card' is written in a serif font to the right of the 'C'. Below the illustration, there is a paragraph of text and the words 'Post Office' in a large, bold, serif font.