



BECAUSE OF

*Bethlehem*



**ARISE! Order of Worship**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**9am**

**Welcome**

**Introit**

*Our Father's Love Begotten*  
Chancel Choir

**Call to Worship and Advent Candle lighting**

We dream God's dream,  
of a world at peace  
**Where enemies are reconciled,  
and children play in safety;  
Where the poor and powerless find justice.**

We remember God's promise of a Ruler of Peace,  
**Filled with the Spirit of God,  
of wisdom and understanding,  
Of counsel and might,  
of justice and faithfulness.**

We light this Advent candle, and we pray:  
**Come Lord Jesus!  
Open our lives to the Peace which you bring;  
let us turn to you, and get ready!**

~ written by Rev. Susan A. Blain, in *To Dream God's Dream:  
Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent.*

**Sung Response**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

## Opening Hymn

*Angels We Have Heard on High* (UMH#238)

Eric Paździora

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

## Opening Prayer

### Scripture

1 John 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup>This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup>And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

**Song of Preparation**

*Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel*  
Floyd Jones

**Prayer of Preparation**

**Sermon**

*Love No Limit*  
Rev. Tammi Brantley

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Song of Response**

*The First Noel (UMH#245)*  
Eric Paździora

The First Noel, the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the north-west  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon the knee,  
And offered there in his presence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Invitation to Offering and Welcoming of Visitors**

### **Offering Song**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
Chancel Choir

### **Closing Song**

*Joy to the World (UMH#246)*  
Eric Paździora on the organ

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**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

##### CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm Family Christmas Eve Service

7:30pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

11:00pm Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve Service

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

##### CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00am Livestreamed Service

(No in-person worship)

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

10:30am English Blended Worship Service

12:30pm Worship Service in Spanish

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

##### NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

10:00pm through Midnight

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

##### EPIPHANY – THREE KINGS SUNDAY

Worship resumes normal schedule – 9, 10:30 & 12:30

### PASTOR JEN AWAY

Pastor Jen will be away December 20-23, December 26-30, and January 6-22. If you need a pastor during these times, please contact Pastor Tammi [Tammi.Brantley@eumc-md.org](mailto:Tammi.Brantley@eumc-md.org) or Pastor Yolanda [Yolanda.Pupo-Ortiz@eumc-md.org](mailto:Yolanda.Pupo-Ortiz@eumc-md.org).

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers are a wonderful way to brighten our altar for worship. Sunday arrangements are \$45 each and may be taken home after the 12:30 service. Your dedication will be printed in the bulletins on Sunday. If you would like to order flowers, you may do so online at [EpworthUnited.org/flowers](https://EpworthUnited.org/flowers) or email Denise at [denise.anderson@eumc-md.org](mailto:denise.anderson@eumc-md.org).

### INVESTING IN OUR LEADERSHIP

Salary Support for Ongoing Ministry - Goal: 25,000 dollars in 2021. As of December 7, 2021, we have raised \$10,305 to support this goal! The Campaign is still open.

For 8 years Epworth received significant grant funding from the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The end of this special Strategic grant has coincided with the COVID19 Pandemic, a lessening in Preschool operation and therefore a lessening in contributions from EPK to EUMC, along with decreased building use. This makes the situation more challenging, but not impossible. We have recently formed a grant writing team working to find additional sources of income to support our ministries and operations of Epworth.

Furthermore, we are seeking to invest in the people who help facilitate, lead, and shepherd ministry. In support of this, we are asking for Salary Support for Ongoing Ministry as a fundraising goal. For Giving Tuesday, please consider any extra giving to go towards the staff of Epworth, who continue to lead us forward in the outreach of Cider Mill, Greater Gaithersburg Youth Ministry, Food Distribution; Discipleship of children, youth, and adults; and hybrid worship, among other important initiatives.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can support Epworth with this goal on Giving Tuesday.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

SPARKS Sunday School is offered at all 3 worship services. During the 9am and 12:30pm services, children are dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Moment and are returned to their parents prior to the end of services. At the 10:30 service, parents can drop off children in the lounge and pick them up there after the service. The 10:30 Sunday school also allows virtual attendance using the *Children's Sunday School button* on the website. SPARKS Sunday School is also offered at Cider Mill on the last Sunday of each month.

## **LIFE GROUPS**

Fall is always a great opportunity to re-commit to growing in faith, and Life Groups can be a great place to start! Groups are currently studying the Book of Jeremiah in conjunction with the sermon series. Most groups are still remote, though some with fully vaccinated individuals, are meeting in person. Life Group signups are open on the website, or you can contact one of the facilitators below:

### **Tuesday 7pm** in English - Online

Judy Fenner [jadrfenner@verizon.net](mailto:jadrfenner@verizon.net)

### **Martes 7pm** en español - En línea

Marcela Uberhuaga [marcelaubehuaga@gmail.com](mailto:marcelaubehuaga@gmail.com)

### **Wednesday 7pm** - High School Seniors, College Freshmen and Sophomores

Donna Ray [speecd13@gmail.com](mailto:speecd13@gmail.com)

### **Thursday 12pm** in English – Online and in person room 201

Pastor Jen [jennifer.fenner@eumc-md.org](mailto:jennifer.fenner@eumc-md.org)

### **Thursdays 7pm** Young Adults - Hybrid - Montgomery Village and zoom

Christina Castillo [artmaniac02@aim.com](mailto:artmaniac02@aim.com)

### **Jueves 8:30pm** oración en español - En línea

Marcela Uberhuaga [marcelaubehuaga@gmail.com](mailto:marcelaubehuaga@gmail.com)

### **Viernes 8:30pm** en español - teléfono

Mayormente oración

Miguel Gallegos [migallegos@gmail.com](mailto:migallegos@gmail.com)

### **Sundays 12pm** English - Online

Orville Wilson [orville.wilson@wilsoncgrp.com](mailto:orville.wilson@wilsoncgrp.com)

Francis Conteh [contehfrank2018@gmail.com](mailto:contehfrank2018@gmail.com)

## **FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

Servant helpers are needed Thursdays for packing, Saturdays for unloading, and Sundays for distribution and delivery. Please sign up on the website if you are able to help.

## **PASTORAL SABBATH**

Pastor Jen and Pastor Tammi take Tuesdays as sabbath. They will be unavailable to participate in meetings, take calls or meet with individuals. Pastoral emergencies should be emailed to Richard Nouboueke at [misericordia73@gmail.com](mailto:misericordia73@gmail.com).

## **COMPUTER AND ENGLISH CLASSES**

English classes are held virtually on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Computer classes are in-person in the computer room on Mondays and Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 pm. It is required to be vaccinated and wear a mask to attend in person. Register for any of these classes on the Ana Brito Foundation website: [aabfi.org](http://aabfi.org).

## **EXPERIENCING SOUND ISSUES?**

Mixing sound for multiple platforms is not easy. Going forward we will be prioritizing sound in the sanctuary and on YouTube. If you are experiencing sound issues in Zoom please go to [youtube.com/EpworthProductions](https://youtube.com/EpworthProductions)

## **PRAYER MINISTRY**

Join us for prayer in English Wednesdays 6am and Thursdays 6:30pm led by Rev. Jen Fenner.

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

Sunday worship, both online and in person, can't happen without the work of many individuals like you! Can you help with tech support at the 9am or 12:30 service? Contact Lilly Otolo at [sprlilly@hotmail.com](mailto:sprlilly@hotmail.com). Can you be an in-person host? Contact Pastor Jen at [Jennifer.Fenner@eumc-md.org](mailto:Jennifer.Fenner@eumc-md.org) or Denise at [Denise.Anderson@eumc-md.org](mailto:Denise.Anderson@eumc-md.org)

## **EPWORTH PODCAST – TRANSFORMED BY FAITH TODAY**

[anchor.fm/eumc-podcast-eng](https://anchor.fm/eumc-podcast-eng) for English  
[anchor.fm/eumc-podcast-esp](https://anchor.fm/eumc-podcast-esp) for Spanish

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