

CELEBRATE SERVICE

Sunday, December 1, 2024



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Liturgical Color: White

10:30 am Service

Nursery/Preschool Sunday School is available during all services in the infant and toddler rooms. Please walk up the few stairs to the right when you enter the building through the main wooden doors. Children Sunday school is held in the Children's Ministry Room which is located to the right of the pulpit.

Let Us Prepare For Worship

Welcome

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

3 A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

6 A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

“All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
7 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”

Lighting of Advent Candle

Star Child
TFWS #2095

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

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,

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

Opening Prayer

Opening Praise Songs

Angels We Have Heard On High
UMH # 238

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

Refrain:

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 heav'nly song?
[Refrain]

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

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

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

UMH # 240

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Scripture Reading

James 1

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Prayer of Preparation

Sermon

What is Lasting?

Rev. Jennifer Fenner

*Following the sermon, youth will be dismissed to
room 201 for Sunday School .*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Song

Gratitude

All my words fall short, I got nothing new
How could I express, All my gratitude

I could sing these songs, As I often do
But every song must end, And You never do

So I throw up my hands, And praise You again and again

'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah
And I know it's not much, But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, Hallelujah

I've got one response, I've got just one move
With my arms stretched wide, I will worship You

So I throw up my hands, And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah
And I know it's not much, But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, Hallelujah

Come on my soul, Oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song, 'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord (repeat)

So I throw up my hands, And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah
And I know it's not much, But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, Hallelujah

Invitation To Receive The Offering

Prayer After Communion & For The Offering

Welcoming of Visitors and Invitation to Review Announcements

*Please sign the friendship pad as it is passed down the row,
if your mailing address has changed, please add your new address.*

Closing Song

Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)

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 Earth, 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

Chorus:

Joy, unspeakable joy!, Overflowing well
No tongue can tell, Joy, unspeakable joy!
Rises in my soul, Never lets me go

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love. (chorus)

Benediction

*Following the service please join us for coffee & conversation in the lounge. (Upstairs, turn left and down the hallway).
Join us and meet some new friends & familiar faces.*

The Altar flowers are given by Fracess and Christo Massaquoi in celebration of Birthdays for Christo and Zenobia.

Upcoming Events:

Tues. 12/3 | GivingTuesday - Make a special contribution to CAPITAL elevator/bathroom

Thurs. 12/5 The Marvel Magic of Advent shared church study 7-8pm

Tues. 12/10 | Christmas Celebration with the EAAB Foundation. 12pm and 6:30pm

Thurs. 12/12 The Marvel and Magic of Advent online shared church study 7-8pm

Fri. 12/13 | Family Kick off to Christmas

5-7pm EPK preschool and kinder Christmas Program in the Sanctuary

7pm Christmas Tree Lighting, book fair, hot chocolate and treats, Santa

Sat. 12/14 | 3pm | Young Adult Christmas Celebration and Cookie Swap

Sun. 12/15 | 2pm | Community Christmas Shoppe

Mon. 12/16 | 7:30pm All Church Conversation End of Year Finances and Stewardship

Epworth



Opportunities to give this Season

Here's a summary of opportunities to give 2024 Year End:

- **MONEY** in "local kids" to purchase \$30 **grocery cards** for Thanksgiving (and if funds available) for Christmas
- **A \$25 GIFT CARD** to Target, Walmart or Visa for youth receiving through the Christmas shoppe. (or \$ in local kids)
- **TOYS** (or money in local kids) for children 2nd-5th grade.
- **ADOPT and BUY GIFTS** for a whole partner family (Estimate spending \$300 per family, Sign ups on website)
- **STAFF GIFT Collection** - Contribute to the staff gift fund to give EUMC staff year end bonuses divided proportionally.
- **GIVE MONEY** to **GIVING TUESDAY Capital campaign** for elevator replacement and bathroom redesign.
- **YEAR END SPECIAL GIFTS** to our **General Fund** to help offset the use of our savings in 2024
www.epworthunited.org/giving

Opportunities to Serve:

1. Sign up as an usher, greeter
2. Sign up to do coffee fellowship after a Sunday service or a special service
3. Sign up to help with the Community Christmas Store Dec 15
4. Carry a Christmas Bag and Carol to a homebound member
5. Support Dec 13 Family Christmas Kick off with treats or hands on help



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GIVING TUESDAY
MARTES de GENEROSIDAD

GivingTuesday is a great way to support your favorite ministry, initiative, or non profit with just a little extra love. The **Tuesday after Thanksgiving is always GivingTuesday**. Take this invitation to make a generous additional gift as a tangible way to express your gratitude AND support ongoing work.

Epworth's Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2024 campaign is focused on specific building upgrades and needs. This year it is part of a faithful multiyear effort to keep our facilities accessible to those with mobility needs and ensure our public restrooms are up to date.

GIVING TUESDAY 2024 will support Epworth's 2024-2026 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN for elevator and bathroom upgrades.

Epworth has recently used capital funds to complete \$11,000 of repairs to our elevator. This was needed just to resume its function. Our elevator company projects we will need a completely NEW elevator within the next 3 years. This has a \$200K price tag. Over the next two years we aspire to raise funds for a new elevator and bathroom upgrades.

Link for GiveButter - <https://live.givebutter.com/c/2024givingtuesday-epworth>

Link for Vanco - <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-25VK/campaign/C-13AJQ>



GiveButter
Giving Tuesday

Vanco
Giving Tuesday



Epworth Vision: To be a church of the community that invites, connects, disciples, and sends out people for Christ; passionately partnering with the Holy Spirit in the transformation of hearts, lives, and communities.

I have come to invite people to change their hearts and lives
Luke 5:32



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A graphic for online giving. It features a QR code on the left with a "SCAN ME" button below it. To the right is a hand holding a smartphone displaying the Epworth logo and a hand-drawn icon of a hand holding a dollar sign. The text "GIVE ONLINE" is at the top, and "GIVEBUTTER" is at the bottom.

GIVE ONLINE

Epworth

SCAN ME

GIVEBUTTER

A graphic for eblast signup. It features a QR code at the bottom. Above it is a hand holding a smartphone. The text "Eblast Signup" is in large bold letters, followed by "SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET SIGNED UP FOR OUR WEEKLY EBLAST NEWSLETTER".

Eblast Signup

SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET SIGNED UP FOR OUR WEEKLY EBLAST NEWSLETTER

A graphic for online giving. It features a QR code on the left with a "SCAN ME" button below it. To the right is a hand holding a smartphone. Above the phone is a speech bubble containing a heart and a hand-drawn icon of a hand holding a heart. The text "Epworth GIVE ONLINE" is at the top, and "Vanco" is at the bottom.

Epworth
GIVE ONLINE

SCAN ME

Vanco