


ARISE SERVICE

Sunday, December 1, 2024



Advent with James 1:27
FAITH AND ACTION
WITH THE MOST
VULNERABLE



Adviento con Santiago 1:27
FÉ Y ACCIÓN
CON LOS MAS
VULNERABLES



December 1, 2024

Liturgical Color: White

9:00 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

Introit

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Epworth Chancel Choir

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!

Call to Worship

(L- Leader / C- Congregation)

L: God has made us for Godself.

C: God has made us for each other.

L: We gather to give our hearts and lives to God.

C: We gather to give our hearts and lives to each other.

L: We seek genuine faith in the midst of false promises in our world.

C: May our faith be expressed in word and action.

L: We seek to love God and love our neighbor.

C: May our love be expressed in word and action. Amen.

All: AMEN.

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH #211

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
An ensign of thy people be;
Before thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

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

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

James 1: 1-18

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

Greetings.

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.

Song of Preparation

One Holy Night in Bethlehem

Epworth Chancel Choir

Scripture

James 1: 19-27

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

Hymn of Response

O Little Town of Bethlehem
UMH #230

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Receive the Elements of Holy Communion

Song During Communion

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 Hymn

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH #196

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

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.

Benediction Prayer and Dismissal with Blessing

*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 Fracness 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 Celebrations 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

Opportunities to Serve in the remainder of 2024:

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

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



BE TRANSFORMED | SEA TRANSFORMADO

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-Z5VK/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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