



Vision: To be a church where faith is fostered, community is cherished, and Christ's love thrives.

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE

Sleigh Ride

Guitarist, Jim Sheats

WELCOME

Rev. Jan Phillips

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Liturgist, Joanna Jebasingh

Liturgist: In this weary world,

People: We sing of joy.

L: In this fragile world,

People: We lift each other up.

L: In this beautiful world,

People: We look for God.

L: In this tender world,

People: We hold onto hope.

L: This is the invitation of faith. So in this time of worship, may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

All: With hope in our hearts, amen!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Benson/Bennett Family

HYMN OF PRAISE*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211 v. 1-4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist, Joanna Jebasingh

During the Prayers of the People, you will be prompted to respond:

PETITIONS: Liturgist: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayers.

PRAISES: Liturgist: Lord, we give you praise.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

SONG OF REFLECTION

Sing We Now of Christmas

Bell Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist, Joanna Jebasingh

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

L: This is the Word of God for the Children of God

P: Thanks be to God

**At this time, children can stay with their families for the remainder of worship or join a Family Ministries Team member for children's time and worship.*

SERMON Words for the Beginning: Risking Hope Rev. Amy Beth Coleman
RESPONSE TO THE WORD
PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Amy Beth Coleman

THANKSGIVING

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Jan Phillips

SENDING FORTH

HYMN OF COMMITMENT* Love Broke Forth Words by Sarah (Are) Speed

1. Love broke forth in radiant fashion, And God called creation good, God made humans in her image, To be loved and understood, Then God took on flesh and bone, All of human life to know.
2. Love broke forth into a body Gently laid on Mary's chest, See him swaddled in a manger, Mighty God now powerless, Giving up his throne on high, To experience this life.
3. Love broke forth to know completely, Who you are and who you'll be, Gathering into one body, All of our humanity, Tenderly Love speaks your name, Risking hope to proclaim.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, and we declare: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

Response to the Word:

Focus Verse: "for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;" -Luke 1:49 NRSV

Blessing of Hope: Lies of cynicism are loud, and so are the voices of others - but, beloved, hope is worth fighting for. May the Spirit of God surround you this season so that you might trust like Joseph and sing like Mary. The same hope they held is alive today, transforming creation into God's will for justice and peace. As you prepare your heart for Christ's arrival, may you make room for God's presence, and may your actions reflect God's hope for humanity. ~ Kayla Craig

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Rev. Amy Beth Coleman, Lead Pastor
Beth Posey, Family Ministries Director
Evan Shively, Church Admin/Communications Director
Dennis Thorp, Organist

Rev. Jan Phillips, Associate Pastor/ Interim Music Director
Lisa Reppert, Financial Admin
Christy Harvey, Nursery Supervisor/Youth Assistant
Charlie Crouch, Facilities Maintenance

