

# UMCM Morning Worship

## December 11, 2022, 10:00 am

*\*Denotes Standing, in body and/or spirit*

*The blue candle on the altar is in remembrance of Sandy Hook*

Worship Theme: Joy

### WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "O Come little Children" Robert W. Thygerson

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Rose Aiello

Advent Candle Lighting Joy Hornak Family

**\*Call to Worship** "The Magnificat" (*Responsively*) Leader

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**People:** for He has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

Leader: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**People:** His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Leader: He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**People:** He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.

**\*Opening Hymn** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" UMH #57  
(v. 1-3)

**\*Opening Prayer/Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)** Leader  
Heavenly Father, thank you for another opportunity to celebrate our shared faith in YOU. We confess, however, that our faith sometimes seems to come and go. On some days, we trust in your ever-abiding presence in our lives and know - no matter what - that YOU are in control. Other times, Father, it's hard to see that you're there at all. Please forgive us when we doubt. Please let our questions and our

searching for you strengthen our relationship, rather than injure it. May we proclaim like that father of old saying, "*I believe; help my unbelief!*" May we put our trust in You that *everything is possible for one who believes*. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Offering One Another the Peace of Christ

Choir Anthem "Alleluia! Christ is Coming!" Berta and Sonja Poorman

A Time for Children of All Ages

### WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Malachi 3:1-4; 4:1-6](#) (NRSV) Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God!

**\*Gospel Lesson:** [Matthew 11:2-15](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

**People:** Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Faith & Doubt" Pastor Chuck

### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn of Response** "Once in Royal David's City" UMH #250  
(v. 1,2,4)

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

\*Doxology & The Offering of our Gifts

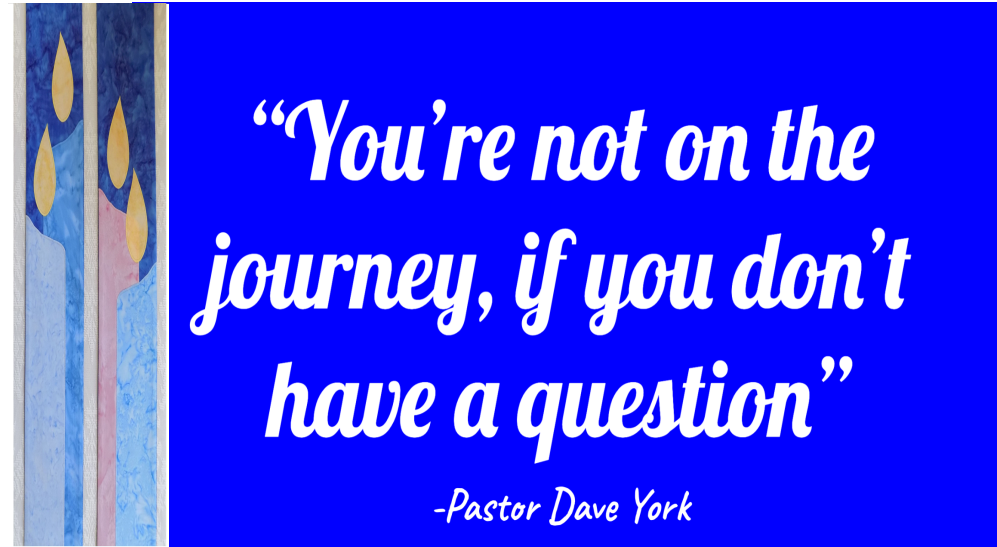
Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

Lord Jesus, we once again approach your altar in anticipation of your coming. While we offer these gifts to you, we know that your arrival as the Christ-child - and you in our lives today - are the true gifts of Christmas. With your power, allow these gifts, and our lives, be a beacon of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY *for others* in our community so that they can feel your gifts as well. We love you Lord. Amen.

**\*Sending Hymn** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" UMH #218  
(v. 1,2,4)

**\*Benediction Resp.** "Walk in the Light"

***Join Us for Coffee Hour Hosted by Besty Sword***



## ***“Growing in the Body of Christ”***