



# Cheltenham United Methodist Church

THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART

Sunday, December 15, 2024

10am

# Advent

A SEASON OF EXPECTATION.

**Worship with via Zoom**

**<https://bit.ly/CUMCSundayServices>**

**Via Facebook**

**[www.facebook.com/CheltenhamUMC](http://www.facebook.com/CheltenhamUMC)**

**To Call In:**

**Dial +1 (301) 715-8592**

**Meeting ID: 861 6676 4909#**

**Password: 001873**



**Scan it to access the church's webpage**

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
**(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

**GATHERING**

WELCOME

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

**Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.**

Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

**Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.**

Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

**Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. AMEN.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

**Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

PRAYER

**Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules.**

**We have sought hope and peace and have found them here.**

**Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives.**

**Open our hearts and our spirits to your love.**

**For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

+HYMN

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

UMH 203

*Words: James Montgomery, 1821 (Ps. 72)*

*Music: Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle, 1784, alt; adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868*

*Tune: ELLACOMBE*

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Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever;  
that name to us is love.

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.**

+HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

UMH 213

Words: Georg Weissel, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Ps. 24)

Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

Tune: TRURO

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Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven’s employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide;  
let us thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on  
until our glorious goal is won;  
eternal praise, eternal fame  
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON  
NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Philippians 4:4-7

CHRISTMAS STORY

“The Anonymous Benefactor”

Reader: Crystal Reed

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

+OFFERTORY

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

UMH 216

+DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

**GOING FORTH**

+HYMN

“Joy to the World”

UMH 246

Words: Issac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98:4-9)

Music: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848

Tune: ANTIOCH

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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.

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.

+BENEDICTION

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## ***Upcoming Events***

### **Monday, December 16, 2024**

Monday Methodists 9am

Knitting Circle 10am

### **Wednesday, December 18, 2024**

Pastor's Office Hour 2pm-4pm

### **Thursday, December 19, 2024**

Pastor's Office Hour 10 pm-12noon

*\*If you need to connect with the pastor for a meeting, you can send an email to [cumcpastorpark@gmail.com](mailto:cumcpastorpark@gmail.com) or give him a call at 202-802-4302*

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### **Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

### **Saturday, January 4, 2025**

Planning Meeting 10am-12noon

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Zephaniah 3:14-20 NRSV** • <sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.” I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

**Philippians 4:4-7 NRSV** • <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.