

Welcome to Elizabethtown United Methodist Church



Sunday, December 10, 2023

Greeting and Announcements

Centering Words

***Call to Worship¹ (Leader part, Congregation part)**

Prepare the path of God.

We prepare by waiting with patience.

Prepare the path of God.

We prepare by living with faith and love.

Prepare the path of God.

We prepare by pursuing justice and peace.

Prepare the path of God.

We prepare, we wait, we pray.

May God bless us with both patience and passion.

We wait and pray to create the path of God.

Opening Prayer¹

Lighting of Advent Candle (Leader, Congregation)

Reader 1: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen

Light the Advent candles of Hope & Peace

***Opening Hymn**

UMH #211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Prayer of Yearning (Unison)

Loving Shepherd, gather us in your arms of love. Cover us with your mercy and grace, that injustices might be healed and transformed into righteousness, justice and peace for your world. Guide us to your path, that we may be people who both await and who create your path of peace, justice, and love. Amen

Words of Assurance¹

A Time of Thanksgiving and Prayer

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation** UMH #529
How Firm a Foundation

Scripture: *Isaiah 40:1-5; Mark 1:1-8*

Message Comfort and Peace

Offertory

Doxology UMH #95

Offertory Prayer¹

***Closing Hymn** *UMH #220*
Angels from the Realms of Glory

Benediction¹

***Hymn of Sending Forth** UMH# 665
Go Now in Peace

Postlude

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Announcements

- Advent Bible Study!
 - Tuesdays, 7pm-8pm
 - Dec 12, 19
 - Studying "An Unlikely Advent"
- EWOWS (yarn group) are done for the year!
 - Saturday, January 13, 10am-noon
- Caroling & Community Christmas Tree lighting
 - December 16th, 7pm-8pm
- Christmas Eve Service
 - December 24th, 6pm
- Do you have an idea, or need, for a small group?
Let us know
- Do you have anything to add?

Birthdays/Anniversaries

- Birthday
 - Dec. 12 - Jon Folke
- Anniversaries
 - none

Did we miss a special day in your life?
Please let Denny know.