

## GATHERING MUSIC

## WELCOME

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**P: Indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.**

L: He has shown strength with his arm; scattering the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

**P: He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.**

L: We wait for the word of the Lord as we wait for the rains.

**P: And our God shall come down upon us like gentle dew.**

## † HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH #234

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent, and the day is at hand. Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son. Save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## † HYMN

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

UMH #230

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-45

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. <sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

## MESSAGE

*"Live Into the Promise"*

Rev. David Magruder

## PASTORAL PRAYER &amp; THE LORD'S PRAYER

## † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A Modern Affirmation*

UMH #885

## † GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

## † HYMN

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

UMH #240

## † BENEDICTION



**December 24**  
**5:30 pm**

## **Special Christmas Eve Service For Children and Families**

### **Lectionary for December 2024 / January 2025**

| <u>Dec. 29</u>       | <u>Jan. 5</u>        | <u>Jan. 12</u>      | <u>Jan. 19</u>        |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 | Isaiah 60:1-6        | Isaiah 43:1-7       | Isaiah 62:1-5         |
| Psalms 148           | Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 | Psalms 29           | Psalms 36:5-10        |
| Colossians 3:12-17   | Ephesians 3:1-12     | Acts 8:14-17        | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 |
| Luke 2:41-52         | Matthew 2:1-12       | Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 | John 2:1-11           |

Pastor: Rev. David C. Magruder, Administrative Assistant: Sherry Wornom  
Accompanist: Tara Thomas, Youth Ministry Director: Glenna Usselman

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*Zion's Mission Statement: By following Jesus Christ, we live to bring glory to God as we use our gifts to grow, share, nurture, and serve.*