

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Tell the timid to take heart.
P: **The Lord our God will come!**

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.**

† HYMNGood Christian Friends, RejoiceUMH #224

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your herald’s urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. Before the advent of the One who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ. We ask this through the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONEzekiel 34:11-24

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹² As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with

justice. ¹⁷ As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats: ¹⁸ Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? ¹⁹ And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet and drink what you have fouled with your feet? ²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

CHILDREN’S TIME

† HYMNSpirit SongUMH #347

GOSPEL LESSONLuke 2:8-20

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

MESSAGE“Joy to the Worn”Rev. David Magruder

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

† *Stand as you are able*

- † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

UMH #881
- † GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70
- † HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

UMH #218
- † BENEDICTION

† *Stand as you are able*



Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 pm

| Lectionary for December 2025/January 2026 | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| December 21 | December 28 | January 4 | January 11 |
| Isaiah 7:10-16 | Isaiah 63:7-9 | Jeremiah 31:7-14 | Isaiah 42:1-9 |
| Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 | Psalms 148 | Psalms 147:12-20 | Psalms 29 |
| Romans 1:1-7 | Hebrews 2:10-18 | Ephesians 1:3-14 | Acts 10:34-43 |
| Matthew 1:18-25 | Matthew 2:13-23 | John 1:1-18 | Matthew 3:13-17 |

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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.

