

Isaiah 55:12-13

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all of the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn, shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier, shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Matthew 2:13-18

When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him." Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I have called my son out of Egypt. When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the Prophet:

*A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and much grieving.
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she did not want to be comforted,
because they were no more.*

Matthew 2:19-23

After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. "Get up," the angel said, "and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead." Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he went to the area of Galilee. He settled in a city called Nazareth so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

Sunday, December 22, 2024 8:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Please stand if it is comfortable for you*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & GREETING

SONG OF BEGINNING *Angels We Have* No. 238
 Heard on High, Red Hymnal
 vs. 1 & 3

(Bell choir plays introduction then the congregation sings)

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE – JOY

Isaiah 55: 12-13

(Unison prayer) As Christmas draws near, O God, we can see and feel the joy of Advent. We are a joyful people who await your coming. Multiply this gift among us so that those who struggle are sustained. May the songs we sing and the life we live witness to the world of Your glorious grace. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

In This Time of Waiting

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2: 13-18

*HYMN

*Love Came Down at
Christmas, vs. 1-3*

No. 242
Red Hymnal

WITNESSING GOD'S LOVE TO OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Joyous God, with the dawning light of your coming Messiah, we see clearly the shortcomings in our own lives. In this season of preparation, we are more concerned about preparing for relatives coming than your coming among us. The distractions of the season can so easily rob us of the joy of your presence with us. Forgive us and create in us truly generous hearts. May our giving and receiving be signs of the fullness of your joy within us. Open our hearts to the joy of your grace as we make our silent confessions (silent confession).

SUNG RESPONSE

*Come, Thou Long-
Expected Jesus, vs. 2*

No. 196
Red Hymnal

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Advent Theme: Dream of Emmanuel

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2: 19-23

SERMON

And the Angel Said

*HYMN

*Angels from the Realms of Glory,
vs.1-2 & 4*

No. 220
Red Hymnal

A TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

No. 94 Doxology

*CLOSING BLESSING

*SUNG RESPONSE

*O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel, vs. 2*

No. 211
Red Hymnal

POSTLUDE

Participating in Worship:

Rev. Jenny Arneson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Brad Mather, Preaching

Sarah Prather Family, Brenda Carlson-Hahn, Advent Readers

Sue Lundeen, Organist

Heavenly Handbells, Music, Barb Kohler, Director

INVITATIONS TO ACTION

*If you are not already receiving our Monday Devotional Word of the Week or our weekly Thursday email that outlines what is happening in the life of this faith community please reach out to the church office at 837-5554 or office@sunprairieumc.org so we can get you on this email list. Our Word of the Week devotional is now also on our Podcast channel. You can now listen to the Word of the Week as well as read it.

* For many, Christmas is a bittersweet time of the year. For some their hearts are breaking over the loss of a loved one, for some they are battling physical or mental health issues, for some they are facing difficult family situations. If you struggle to find joy in this season, we offer our Longest Night Service. Through music and scripture, prayer and communion, along with the lighting of candles, we hope to help you break the darkness and find the light that Jesus Christ offers. Our Longest Night Service will be held on Sunday, December 22 at 7:00 pm. You are welcome to join us either in person or virtually online.

*Join us on Christmas Eve, December 24th, for worship in the church sanctuary or on the livestream at 5 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm. Our 5 pm worship will feature music from our Praise Team. The Chancel Choir will offer music at our 7 pm worship and harp music will offer music at 9 pm. Holy Communion will be shared at the 9 pm worship service. The livestream may be accessed through our church website at sunprairieumc.org or through our YouTube Channel.

*Next Sunday, December 29th, we will begin our new worship schedule with one service at 9am both in our church sanctuary and online.