



## MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

(\* Indicates when people are invited to stand)

PRELUDE:

*"The First Noel"*

Arr Carol Tornquist

### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

The signs are there: God's love comes again, showering us with the light of Christ!

**O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

With anticipation of the divine, we remain expectant and marvel at the steadfast faith of Mary and Joseph.

**O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

The time is nearly upon us. Preparations are almost complete. Are we ready for change?

**O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Worship and praise God for these signs of hope and love!

**O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

### OPENING PRAYER

In this season of love, hope and family, grant us joy and peace this day. You offered signs to Joseph and Mary long ago—signs that their son would be the Messiah, Emmanuel. May your light shine on us here, that we might understand the signs in our lives. We come with open hearts and minds to hear of your love coming into the world. We come to hear of a young woman with child, a foster father with trust in God, a match you made in heaven to shepherd a tiny boy to his destiny. Holy God, show us your peace as we make ready for your light in the world!

**Amen.**

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

We light the fourth candle, the candle of Love.

*Reader : "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

**Lord Jesus, you are our love. Your perfect love was revealed in your birth, life, and sacrifice. May your light ignite within us a deeper love for God and for our neighbors. Amen.**

\*HYMN: 240

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

vs 1-4

## PRAYER OF YEARNING

We lay our burdens before you, O Lord, with our lives open and ready to receive your light and love. Lead us toward your Son, Jesus, Emmanuel, as we continue to wander with you in faith. Thank you for the many signs of your love, sent in your infinite wisdom. May we have the faith of Mary and Joseph, and may we be your attendants, anxious for the coming of your light once again. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The king of love comes for all! With tears wiped away and replaced with joy, delight in preparing for the imminent arrival of the Son of God. We are all called by God, forgiven, cleansed, and made free.

## **\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Peace be with you.

**SPECIAL MUSIC: Perry Brumm**    *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*    *Arr. Stephen DeCesare*

## OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 7:10-16 (NIV)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."

Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM: 80:1-7, 17-19 (NIV)

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.

**Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

How long, Lord God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

**Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

## EPISTLE: Romans 1:1-7 (NIV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**JOYFUL BILLS**

*“Little Drummer Boy”*

*Arr. Daniel Hermány*

## \*GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

The gospel according to Matthew.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTIONS ON GOD'S WORD**

Pastor Rob Odum

**\*HYMN: 219**

*“What Child is This”*

*vs 1-3*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of Heaven, accept these gifts from our hearts, that they may fulfill the purposes of your people. As Christ's light shines upon us, we rejoice in the opportunity to share our abundance with others. Bless these offerings to the Christ child and to our resurrected Lord.

**OFFERTORY MUSIC:**            *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

**\*DOXOLOGY: 94**            *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**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

## \*BENEDICTION

Go in faith and anticipation of the greatest gift of all. Christ, the Light of the World, will restore us to love, hope, and peace. Emmanuel, God with us, will be with us again. With faithful obedience encouraging us, let us happily await the days ahead. Go in joy to spread signs of God's good news.

**Amen.**

## \*POSTLUDE:

"Carol of the Bells"

Arr Tom Fetke



December	Liturgists	Ushers
21st	John Hurley	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
24th	John Hurley	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
28th	Connie Ziegler	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
January	Liturgists	Ushers
4th	Carolyn Ettlie	To be determined
11th	Lynn Sirna	To be determined
18th	John Hurley	To be determined
25th	Connie Ziegler	To be determined

## 2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

All contributions that you would like to be shown on your 2025 Contribution Statement should be in the church office or offering plate **By December 28<sup>th</sup>**. Year-end statements will be available mid-January.



## DINING OUT GROUP

**January 10th at 5pm** at the "Steak House 100". This is located at 7246 W. Greenfield Ave. It will be "Cash Only" for individual checks, otherwise one bill for the group. We're looking forward to seeing you there!! ~John P.S. if money is tight this month, give me a call. I'm sure something can be worked out. Your presence is most important. 414 687-3627



## MISSIONS

It's hard to believe that another year is almost over!

It has been our privilege to represent Memorial Church. It has amazed us how generous all of you have been with the numerous clothes donations, school supplies, backpacks, personal care items, glasses, used cell phones, loose coins and food. I tell all the organizations about the wonderful church family I have that make Mission such a wonderful experience.

We have chosen some new organizations for the loose coin collection starting in January 2026!



Information on each organization will continue to be included in future newsletters and weekly bulletins. In addition, information will be shared on the mission bulletin board. On the bulletin board, we will also be sharing pictures of past and current missions! Take a look!

Again, thank you for the support you have given us to make 2025 a successful Mission year!

Cyndi Eickstaedt &  
Philip Gruntzel



## Script Cards Program

The number of people using the Gift Card Program is growing. That is good news for the church, but we can still use some more people utilizing the program.



Gift Card orders are due the third Sunday of the month.

If you have any questions about the program, or want to order cards, please contact Tom Rowe at 414-331-3753.

Thank you.



### Memorial UMC

#### **General Information & Staff**

3450 South 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Greenfield, WI 53219

**Church Phone:** 414-545-2440

**Church Email:** [mumcggreenfield@gmail.com](mailto:mumcggreenfield@gmail.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Rob Odum, 414-238-8367

**Pastor's Email:** [robdodum@gmail.com](mailto:robdodum@gmail.com)

**Director of Music:** Sarah Brumm

**Hymn Leaders:** Sarah Brumm,  
Summer Ketchell, Emily Bergeron

**Pianist & Organist:** Karen Fetzer

#### **Live Stream Production Team:**

Brad Weller, Xylia-Sophia Conn,  
John Stoekl, Tom Rowe, Greg Ettlie

**Office Administrator:** Peggy Leonhardt

**Hours:** Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-1pm

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Sunday, 9:15am

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday, 10:30am

**CERAMICS:** Mondays, 1-9pm

**CHANCEL CHOIR:** Thursday, 6:30-7:25pm

**JOYFUL BELLS:** Thursday, 7:30-8:30pm

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:**

Sunday 12/14 during the worship service.

**SASSY SOWERS:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday & 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday, 10am-1pm

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 9am at Meyers

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 8:30am at Meyers

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:**

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**

#### **POINSETTIA PICK-UP:**

after the 6PM Christmas Eve service,  
Wednesday 12/24; or again on Sunday,  
12/28 after service.

