



## MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

(\* Indicates when people are invited to stand)

### PRELUDE:

*"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"*

*Harm JS Bach*

### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today in great hope, longing to see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

**The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.**

May our worship strengthen our hands, make firm our trembling knees, and unburden our fearful hearts.

**The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.**

Knowing that God is near, let us be patient with the times and with one another.

**The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.**

To all who ask about our hope, let us tell the good news of what we have seen and heard.

**The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

Joyful and patient God, you break into our Advent busyness with your extravagant promise of glory and joy. Fire up our imaginations with holy trust in your goodness. Inspire us with a patience that sees beyond our habitual longing for past glories and understandings. Move us beyond our too familiar criticisms of one another and of ourselves. Open our eyes and help us see your compassion, already at work in our world: healing, restoring, strengthening, and telling the good news that you are near. Make us signs of your everlasting joy for your people and for all the world We pray in the name of Jesus, whose nearness we proclaim. **Amen.**

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We light the third candle, the candle of Joy.

*Reader :* "The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11)

**Lord Jesus, you are our joy. Your arrival brings gladness to our hearts and lifts our spirits. May the light of your joy radiate from us, bringing cheer to others. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF YEARNING**

**Advent God, we yearn to rejoice, as we tell of Jesus coming into our world. We long to see your promise of mercy, justice, and restoration, fulfilled for all people everywhere. In our yearning, we discover that our hands are weak, our knees are feeble, and our hearts are full of fear. Stuck in old stories and remembered glories, we grow critical of one another and of ourselves. We even wonder whether Jesus is near. Then our desire to rejoice sputters in frustration and impatience. Restore us, yearned-for God. For your joy is not our accomplishment, but your gift. Set us on the Holy Way of Advent, forgiven, strengthened, and healed, rejoicing in your glory and majesty. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Advent People of God, as those ransomed by the Lord, walk the Holy Way, where no traveler goes astray. Come, rejoicing and singing, knowing that sorrow and sighing shall flee and that God's everlasting joy shall surround and hold you.

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Share the peace of Christ with one another.

**Peace be with you.**

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

*“Air for Advent”*

*Arr. Tom Fettke*

**OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 35:1-10 (NIV)**

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” Then will the eyes of the blind be opened

and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness;

it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:47-55 (NIV)**

“My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
**for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.**  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
**for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.**  
His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
**from generation to generation.**  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
**he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.**  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
**but has lifted up the humble.**  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
**but has sent the rich away empty.**  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
**remembering to be merciful**  
to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
**just as he promised our ancestors.”**

**EPISTLE: James 5:7-10 (NIV)**

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV)**

The gospel according to Matthew.

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## 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: 250**

*"Once in Royal David's City"*

*vs 1-4*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God who calls us to rejoice, you fill the hungry with good things and you help your people in need. Receive the gifts we offer, we pray, and make them, and us, joyful and patient signs of your coming justice and glory.

**Amen.**

## OFFERTORY MUSIC:

*"As Lately We Watched"*

*Austrian Carol*

**\*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

May God, who makes the desert blossom, fill you with the joy of God's glory and majesty.  
May Jesus, who brings good news to all people, fill you with the joy of patience, as you await the coming of the Lord. May the Holy Spirit, who keeps God's promises of mercy and justice, fill you with the joy of hope, as you walk the Holy Way of Advent.

**Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE:

"While By My Sheep"

Arr Mark Hayes

† †



December	Liturgists	Ushers
14th	Lynn Sirna	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
21st	John Hurley	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
24th	John Hurley	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
28th	Connie Ziegler	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang

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 **RaiseRight.**  
**SCRIP ORDERS DUE DEC 14th!**  
 If you wish to place an order please take a form from the display in the narthex, fill it out and return it along with your payment. *Remember to include SCRIP on the memo line of your check.*

# 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 be included in January's newsletter and also will be on the mission board. Take a look.

On the board will be pictures of past and current missions! Hope you enjoy it all!

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

Cyndi Eickstaedt & Philip Gruntzel



Glory to God  
*in the highest,*  
 and on earth peace,  
 good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV



### **2025 CONTRIBUTIONS**

All contributions that you would like to be shown on your 2025 Contribution Statement should be in the church office or offering plate by: Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.



The Perez family will be lighting the Advent Candle during today's service.  
Thank you!



**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.

**AFTER CHURCH LUNCH (POSTPONED):**

~~Sunday, 12/14 following 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

**BLOOD DRIVE:** Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from Noon-6pm

**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.

### **Memorial UMC**

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

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

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**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