



Bel Air United Methodist Church

3rd Sunday of Advent – December 10, 2023 – 9:15 am

Prelude

Sounding Brass Quintet

Announcements & Ministry Opportunities

Welcome

Rev. Lynn Boyd

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 34:1,3, and 8)

I will bless the LORD at all times;

We will bless our God at all times.

O magnify the LORD with me.

I will praise the Holy One with my voice.

Let us exalt God's name together.

Come now, let us worship together.

Let us taste and see that our LORD is good.

Hymn of Praise *

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

Jeff Beyers, Organist and Sounding Brass Quintet

Opening Prayer *

Holy One, you send us new life in so many forms.

Open our minds, that we may recognize it.

Open our hearts, that we may receive it.

Open our souls, that we may live it.

Open us this day and all days. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles - The Candle of Love**

Chas Hagan and Mike Moody

From Manna in the wilderness, to the bread from heaven.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Let us make room at the table for family and outcasts, friends and enemies.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

We light the candle of love, the light of abundance that satisfies our longing.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Hymn Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 5 & 7)

UMH 211

Special Music

Sounding Brass Quintet

Prayer of Confession and Silent Prayer

Chas Hagan

Words of Assurance

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. **And, also with you. Amen**

Scripture Reading

Psalm 34:8

The Word of God that is still speaking. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Bloomin

UMH 216

Sermon

Taste and See that the Lord is Good
Sermon Series: Experiencing Christmas

Rev. Lynn Boyd

Response to the Word Proclaimed

Lord, thank you for this time to feast upon your word. We pray that during this season of advent you would continue to enrich our experience of Christmas so that we might rediscover the meaning of the season. May our sense of taste - and its related sense, smell - become signs for us, pointing us to the incarnation so that we might experience your love in a new way today. We long to taste your goodness! In Jesus's name. **Amen.**

Sharing of Tithes and Offering



Doxology*

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Prayer of Dedication*

Chas Hagan

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us,
we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor
to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope;
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Communion and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Lynn Boyd

Communion Servers: Chas Hagan, Mike Moody, Lisa Caudill, Nolan Shaver, and Alice Archer

The Great Thanksgiving (***)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of star and song. You created a world of goodness, and placed the sun to warm us by day and the stars to guide us at night. You are forever bringing light into our darkness. Even when we shun the light, you send midnight messengers who weave your words into our dreams and you stir up angelic chorus which cause us to rejoice.

Therefore, with all the prophets who called us back to the light, and with all the people and creatures of earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, we praise you for this holy season of hints and whispers when you sent your best gift to us. We thank you that Jesus raised up those of low degree, fed the hungry, healed the sick, and drew us back to you, to walk the path of light, from manger to the cross, he turned the world around.

We remember how he took bread, the staff of life and gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his community. "Take, eat, this is my body broken for you."

And he took the cup, the fruit of the earth, the blessings of the sun, gave thanks to you, gave it to his community and said, "Drink from this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 894

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn *

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218

Benediction*

Postlude

Sounding Brass Quintet

(*) You are invited to stand if you are comfortable standing

(**) Litany and Response to the Word Proclaimed from Matt Rawle's Experiencing Christmas

(***) The Great Thanksgiving Copyright 1994, 2003. Larry J. Peacock, "Water Words" Permission granted to use credit noted.

Prayer of Dedication-Feasting on the Word Advent Companion

Communion Is Open to All – Pre-packaged Gluten-Free communion elements are available upon request. Please ask an usher and they will provide it for you.

Food & Fellowship Thank You! Thank you to our Hospitality Team led by Alice Archer. Join us in Room 202 and the Welcome Center every Sunday from 10:00 -11:00 am.

Christmas Ornaments for Sale - Looking for an alternative Christmas gift idea for the person that has everything and/or to show your love for the environment? Then, consider purchasing a hand-made ornament created by the Creation Care Team for only \$15. The recipient will receive the ornament, along with a card indicating that trees are being planted in their honor by the Arbor Day Foundation. Visit the Creation Care Team table, outside the Narthex, on Sunday morning following the 9:15 am service.

Advent Sermon Series – *Experiencing Christmas* by Matt Rawle

Advent Week 3 – Dec. 10 – Do You Taste What I Taste?

Advent Week 4 – Dec. 17 – Do You Feel What I Feel?

Christmas Eve Services – Sunday, December 24th

11:00 am – Sanctuary

4:00 pm – Children and Family Service

6:00 pm – Mt. Carmel

7:00 pm – Sanctuary

8:00 pm – Mt. Carmel

9:00 pm – Sanctuary

Bel Air United Methodist Church, 21 Linwood Ave., Bel Air, MD 21014

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Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide; let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won; eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 5 & 7)

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home. The captives from their prison free, and keep death's deep misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Bloomin

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose, I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show "God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, the glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.