



Bel Air United Methodist Church

4th Sunday of Advent – December 17, 2023 – 9:15 am

Prelude

People Look East

Handbell Choir – David Tramontana, Director

The

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive; United Methodist Book of Worship, Romans 13:11-12)

For you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep.

Salvation is nearer to us now that when we became believers; the night is far gone and the day is near.

Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn*

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

UMH 213

Opening Prayer (Unison, United Methodist Prayer)

Emmanuel, *God with Us*, truly in this Advent season we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway cloud, but you chose to be with us in the mystery of our lives.

In the midst of lists and rush, you are with us as a song that echoes in our minds, as the light of a candle, as a card from a friend. They are signs of your presence. We turn to you this season and pray that you would birth joy and healing, blessing and hope in us.

Let something wonderful begin in us — something surprising and holy.

May your hand be upon us. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us.

Let our longing for you be met on a coming holy night.

Emmanuel, *God with Us*, be with us once again. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dom & Karen Corson

Joy is the steadfast assurance that God is with us.

Let us embrace the goodness of God.

We celebrate with those who heard the good news.

Let us embrace the goodness of God.

(Pause and light four candles)

These candles represent our hope, our love, our joy, and our desire for peace around the world. God is drawing near. Christmas is the time when God comes close. Our world is better off knowing that God will walk through life with us. In everything we do, God can be reached out and touched.

We embrace the goodness of God. Thanks be to God for that love from above, which never ends. Amen.

Moment for Ministry

Fellowship Invitation

Alice Archer

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance (John 3:16)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Peace (Based on Matthew 18:20)

In Jesus Christ, we know God's forgiveness and peace. Let that peace be felt throughout our sanctuary today. When two or more are gathered in Christ's name, Christ is with us.

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

Hymn*

People, Look East

UMH 202

Gospel Reading

Luke 7: 36-50

Sermon

"Do You Feel What I Feel?"

Rev. Byron E. Brought

Offering Our Gifts

This moment of reflection is an opportunity to consider your response to God. How will you demonstrate your love for God? How will you give of your time, your talents, and your treasures? Please consider giving electronically; ask us how. Thank you.



Christmas Cantata

Bel Air United Methodist Church Chancel Choir

David Tramontana, Director

- I. Joy to the World (Hal Hopson)
Jeff Beyers – Organ
- II. A Carol Suite – Hal H. Hopson
Once in Royal David's City
Sing We Now of Christmas
Still, Still, Still
Angels We Have Heard on High
Jeff Beyers – Organ
Jeffrey Winfield – Piano
Melina Gajger – Violin I
Megan Bradshaw – Violin II
Michael Bradshaw – Cello

Sara Nichols – Flute
Mark Christiansen – Oboe
Michael Hall – Horn
Jackie Dennis, Jeremy Sanders, Richard Santoro - Handbells

Benediction & Postlude*



Thank You! Thank you to our Hospitality Team for providing fellowship each Sunday. Join us in Room 202 and the Welcome Center from 10:00 -11:00 am.

Furniture Ministry Update – Our furniture ministry partners with Fresh Start (Formerly Found in Faith). The storage facility is located at 1050 Hardees Drive, Unit B, Aberdeen, MD 21001. Furniture donations are always welcome. Go to <FreshStartMD.org> for details. Evelyn McSorley is our congregational liaison.

Pass It On Ministry Update – Thank you to everyone who is involved with Pass It On throughout the year: Angie Coughlin, Christine Gregory, Skip Panowitz, Frank Tillman, Jodi Lovell, and Elaine Ryan. \$44,000 in aid was given out this past year to people in need. Thank you to the entire congregation for helping. You are wonderful and the LORD is good. Special thanks to Angie Coughlin, the head of this ministry.



Candlelight 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

Lift Up Your Heads, You 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!

People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People look east: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**Bel Air United Methodist Church, 21 Linwood Ave., Bel Air, MD 21014
410-838-5181 • <belairumc.org>**