



## Bel Air United Methodist Church

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 3, 2023 – 9:15 am

Prelude

Organist, Jeff Beyers

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord (Godspell)*

*(Soloist 2X – Soloist and choir 1X – Add congregation 1X – Add organ 2X)*

Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. **Amen.**

“See I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.

**Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.” Amen.** (Mark 1:2-3)

Hymn\*

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

UMH 209

Opening Prayer (Unison)

**We are here to serve the LORD. We’ve come with praise in our hearts, minds, and souls.  
We’ve come with joyful expectation and hope. Put your Spirit upon us, O God, that we  
would serve you and our neighbors with justice. We come with loving hearts. Shine down  
on us that we might love even more. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Tim, Vicki, and Lauren Wessel

We lift up our voices in praise and thanksgiving, singing a new song to the LORD!

**Sing to the LORD. Bless God’s name.**

God is composing a melody of grace for all who have ears to hear.

**Sing to the LORD. Bless God’s name.**

*(Pause and light two candles)*

This second candle we light is a candle of peace and harmony. It’s a symbol of our love for God and God’s people. We want to live in peace with God and our neighbor in all that we do.

**Sing to the LORD. Bless God’s name. Amen.**

Anthem

*Sounds of Advent*

Chancel Choir

Directed by Dave Tramontana

Moment for Ministry

Stewardship – Required Minimum Distributions

Leah Clague

Prayer of Confession

Jim Piccione

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance (Psalm 145:8)

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## The Peace

As reconciled people, let us welcome one another.

I welcome you with love, friendship, and peace in Jesus' name.

**As reconciled people, we welcome you with love, friendship, and peace in Jesus' name.**

**Scripture Reading**                      Isaiah 42: 10-13 & 18-23

**Hymn\***                                      *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

**Sermon**                                      "Do You Hear What I Hear?"                                      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.*



## Doxology\*

### Prayer of Dedication\* (Unison)

**Your loving patience gives us hope as we await the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. In gratitude and thanks, we offer you our hearts, our lives, and all that we have. Use these gifts, we pray, to prepare your way of salvation and to establish your realm of peace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

## Communion & The Lord's Prayer

### Pastoral Prayer

<b>Hymns*</b>	<i>The King of Glory Comes</i>	TFWS 2091
	<i>We Will Glorify the King of Kings</i>	TFWS 2087

## Benediction & Organ Postlude\*



**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.

**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](http://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.

**Christmas Caroling Invitation** – You are invited to come Christmas caroling with us for Bel Air's Winter Wonderland on December 9<sup>th</sup>. You don't have to be a singer. We just want you to love sharing the love of Jesus. Meet by the Bel Air Armory at 6:45 pm. Children's Choir will be singing there from 6:30-7:00 pm. Bel Air Armory is located downtown Bel Air at 37 N. Main Street. Come back to the church for cookies and hot cocoa, around 8 pm.

**Advent Sermon Series – *Experiencing Christmas* by Matt Rawle**

- ❖ Advent Week 1 – Nov. 26 – Do You See What I See?
- ❖ Advent Week 2 – Dec. 3 – Do You Hear What I Hear?
- ❖ 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

### ***Blessed Be the God of Israel***

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free, who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty. The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release; God shall fulfill the promise to bring the people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given; a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven. Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way, the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace; O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

### ***Do You Hear What I Hear?***

Said the night wind to the little lamb, Do you see what I see?  
Way up in the sky, little lamb, Do you see what I see?  
A star, a star, dancing in the night With a tail as big as a kite, With a tail as big as a kite.

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, Do you hear what I hear?  
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy, Do you hear what I hear?  
A song, a song high above the trees With a voice as big as the sea, With a voice as big as the sea.

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, Do you know what I know?  
In your palace warm, mighty king, Do you know what I know?  
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold Let us bring him silver and gold, Let us bring him silver and gold.

Said the king to the people everywhere, Listen to what I say!  
Pray for peace, people, everywhere, Listen to what I say!  
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night He will bring us goodness and light, He will bring us goodness and light.

### ***The King of Glory Comes***

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

In all of Galilee, in the city or village, he goes among his people curing their illness.  
The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Sing then of David's son, our Savior and brother; in all of Galilee was never another.  
The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

***We Will Glorify the King of Kings***

We will glorify the King of kings, we will glorify the Lamb; we will glorify the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty, we will bow down before his throne; we will worship him in righteousness, we will worship him alone.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth, he is Lord of all who live; he is Lord above the universe, all praise to him we give.

Hallelujah to the King of kings, hallelujah to the Lamb; hallelujah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.

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