

**FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Service for December 22, 2019**



FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

Friendship United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 72, Friendship, Maryland 20758  
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**FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**December 22, 2019, 11:00 a.m. Service**

**GATHERING**

We welcome you and rejoice that you have chosen to worship with us. We are a congregation of caring and committed Christians who hope that this worship experience will help strengthen your faith and perhaps enable you to grow in your love of God. We do ask that you complete the information sheet found in the “RED” Registration Pads in each pew. Where there is an asterisk in the service, we invite you to stand if you are able. Where you see **bold print**, we encourage you to join in the reading with others. If you seek more information concerning Friendship Church, please mark the appropriate space on the information sheet or contact the Church Office.

The flowers on the altar today are given by Linda Thompson in honor of Bee Hobbs December 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday and in memory of Bob Hobbs

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PRELUDE “Good Christian Men Rejoice” (arr. Held)

**\*OPENING PRAYER (Done Responsively)**

L: Loving God, we come together to celebrate Your Son,

**P: whose birth restored hope to the world.**

L: In this season of joy, we pray for those who need that hope today;

**P: For those in the darkness of despair,**

L: who need the hope of Your Light;

**P: those burdened by loss,**

L: who need the hope of Your Comfort;

**P: whose surrounded by conflict and war,**

L: who need the hope of Your Peace;

**P: and those without refuge, the oppressed,**

L: who need the hope of Your Compassionate Mercy and Justice.

**P: Help us, Your Church, to fulfill Your Purpose on earth.**

L: May we be Your Arm of Hope, reaching beyond the walls of worship into the world.

**P: We thank You for the gift of Your Son, who alone can satisfy the longing of hearts.**

L: Until that day when we see Him face to face, we wait with joyful expectation in the blessed hope of His Return.

**P: Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: UMH 234 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

\*LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE:

The David Family

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7 (Old Testament p. 600)

L: We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.

**P: May the visitation of Your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our Hope and Joy.**

THE GATHERING OF OUR MORNING OFFERING

Offertory “Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep” (arr. Ritter)

\*Doxology: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly  
host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

\*Prayer of Dedication & 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*

CANTATA: “The Thrill of Hope” (Martin & Sorensen)

\*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

L: Go now as messengers of God’s Hope.

**P: Where there is darkness, shine the hope of His Light.**

L: Where there is conflict, spread the hope of His Peace.

**P: Where there is despair, share the hope of His Gift of eternal life.**

L: May you live in service to Him whose promise was fulfilled, whose hope is restored and is alive in you through the birth of His Son, Jesus.

**P: Amen.**

\*CHOIR ENDS WITH “O Holy Night”

\*POSTLUDE “Angels We Have Heard on High” (arr. Turner)



*Christmas Eve*  
SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24, 2019  
*(all services will contain candle lighting)*

6:00 pm – Music by the Sanctuary choir  
8:30 pm – Music by Voices In Praise & Alumni  
11:00 pm – Communion