



*"With all my heart  
I glorify the Lord!*

*In the depths of who I am  
I rejoice in God my savior."*

LUKE 1:46-47, CEB

## **Waterloo First United Methodist Church**

614 Randolph Street - Waterloo, IA 50702 - (319) 235-7088 - [www.waterloofirst.org](http://www.waterloofirst.org)

**Rev. Dr. Hojin Shin, *Pastor***

*The Mission of Waterloo First United Methodist Church is to be a church of people who live as disciples of Jesus Christ by providing a place for spiritual growth in a caring, inviting community.*

# December 22, 2024

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

*Welcome! We are happy to have you with us today!*

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist Arlene Wright

*Please sign and pass the ritual of Friendship.*

### \*GREETING (With One Another)

Rev. Hojin Shin

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you!

Response: And also with you!

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah... from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O Waterloo First, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

We wait as people of God’s promise.

The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary’s womb call to us today.

**We listen as people of God’s promise.**

Mary’s “yes” and Elizabeth’s faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God’s good news into the world.

**We follow as people of God’s promise.**

This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

**God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

God of the impossible and unlikely, God of pregnant old women and virgins, you turn our conventional world upside down, where the hungry are fed, and arrogant rich are turned away. Instill in us unthinkable marvels. Make us pregnant with wonder through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

**No. 230**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**No. 895**

**ANTHEM**

*“No Room at the Inn”*

Dick Allen

Chancel Choir

Dr. John Roberts, director & accompanist

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 1: 46-55**

**SERMON**

*“Roots– Jesus Come to Us from a Story”*

**Rev. Hojin Shin**

**OFFERING**

Offertory

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

**No. 94**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*“Go Tell It On the Mountain”*

**No. 251**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**John Roberts, Ed. D., pianist**

\*Please stand if you are able

*We are happy you are with us today!!*  
Please sign the **attendance registration** pad located in the pew racks.

If you would like to use a **large print hymnal**,  
or a **hearing assistance device** please ask an usher for one.

- \* Our prayer chain is available to any who have needs or concerns. We will pray with you and for you. Fill out a prayer request form located in the pew or contact the church office at 235-7088. All prayer requests will be sent out by email.
- \* Our Cry Room, Nursery, and a Rest Room are all located off the hallway in the back of the sanctuary.
- \* The service is recorded each week and is available to anyone who requests it. If you know of someone who is unable to attend services and would like to receive a DVD or an audio CD, please contact the church office, 235-7088.
- \* Today's service is being live streamed on Facebook.
- \* Children's Bulletins are available in the sanctuary on a table by the door in the front. Children's packets are available in bags and the back of the sanctuary.

<b>Ministers</b>	Every Member
<b>Director of Music</b>	Emily Forssberg
<b>Organist</b>	Dr. Linda Sharp DMA, MDiv
<b>Pianist</b>	Dr. John Roberts, Ed. D.
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Kristy Klinger
<b>Financial Assistant</b>	Dawn Lowe
<b>Media Specialist</b>	Sally Thurman