

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Carols of Christmas

PRELUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

German Folk Melody

WELCOME

Please pass the ritual of Friendship

*GREETING (With One Another)

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you!

Response: And also with you!

*ADVENT READING

Sam & Amy Anderson

We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths, and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

*OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist, Sam Anderson

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Vs. 1, 2, 3 & 6 No. 234

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

No. 895

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1: 20-23

Hebrews 1: 1-3

ANTHEM

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Chancel Choir

Emily Forssberg, director ~ Ginger Herndon, accompanist

SERMON

"Incarnation 3. Immanuel In the Midst of a Pandemic"

Rev. Hojin Shin

OFFERING

Offertory

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

Jonah Crouch, piano

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

No. 94

*CLOSING HYMN

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

No. 218

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Hark! The Herald Angels"

Arranged by Young

Susan Feltman, organist

*Please stand if you are able

Altar Interpretation

Emmanuel, God with Us. Welcome!

Out of the darkness Jesus brings light and hope, love and joy.

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.

Ministers

Director of Music

Organist

Pianist

Accompanist

Administrative Assistant

Media Specialist

Every Member

Emily Forssberg

Susan Feltman

John Roberts, Ed. D.

Ginger Herndon

Dawn Lowe

Sally Thurman



Waterloo First United Methodist Church

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Rev. 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.