

EAGLE GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP **ADVENT 2, DECEMBER 5, 2021**

Welcome

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Centering Prayer and Bringing in the Light

Call to Worship

If life was a home, then we would pray—

may love be the foundation; may God be the cornerstone.

May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.

And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

Let us worship Holy God.

Opening hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#196

Lighting the Advent Candles

Our Response *tune: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, #626*

As we light the candle of peace,

We await the Christ yet to come.

Seeking peace within and around us,

To a world with fear overgrown.

Christ come to us, upon our earth do dwell,

May we carry peace close to home.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Holy God, When John was born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it.

We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough.

We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions.

Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Hear the prayers of our hearts, O Lord. *Silent reflection*

...This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Music for our hearts

Lincoln Bartley

RECEIVING AND RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture and Reflection

Pastor Alaire

The Sacrament Of Baptism

please join in the **Bold** sections of the Baptismal bulletin

Hymn of Response

Jesus Loves Me

#191

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, You are our home. You and your goodness are the place we return to, the place we long to lay our head. So today as we offer you these gifts, we pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Amen.

Hymn

Zechariah's Lullaby

colored insert

Sacrament of Communion

join by following on pg 15

This is the Lord's table, where we remember, and rejoice, and renew. All are invited – and this all means ALL. Today you may come via the center aisle, pause and receive, and then go by the left, to avoid the camera. You stop at the communion rail to your left, if you desire. If you prefer to remain in your seat, let the usher know, and we will bring the elements to you.

SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

How we can serve

Benediction

As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—go in peace.

Response as we are sent

Sanctuary

#2164

Postlude

✠✠✠ *We follow the Light of Christ into the World* ✠✠✠

COMING UP

Wed, Dec 8 – M&M's and Dynamic Disciples will meet early, following the early dismissal until 5pm for crafts, games, and learning. All K-gr 8 are invited.

Poinsettias We will add poinsettias to our chancel mid-month (if you would like to provide one, from yourself, or in memory or honor of another, place your order directly through Eagle Grove Greenhouse, 448-5181, and they will deliver).

Follow us on Facebook (Eagle Grove UMC) and you'll receive a brief devotional each morning, as well as photos and updates of what's happening. Follow, like and share so others will know, too.