

CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 2022

EAGLE GROVE AND GOLDFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

GATHER

WELCOME

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP ¹

It was the night when love was born. Just as now the world was torn.

But all was calm and all was bright. The star above gave out its light.

Dear people all around the world, let us unite.

We will show how hope can change us, how hope can help us grow.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

LITURGY OF LIGHTING

PRAYER

God of our future, we open ourselves to hear your call today— the call to keep hope alive no matter the troubles we face. Help us to never lose hope and to offer hope to all around us— making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.

Fill us with your love and light, make the world so calm and bright.

***OPENING HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#196

PROCLAIM

DISCOVERING THE LIGHT

O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 1,

#230

We build our visual in the chancel each week.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MORNING

Isaiah 9:6 CEB; Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV

WITNESS TO THE LIGHT

Pastor Alaire

RESPOND

TIME OF PRAYER

Let us take a moment of silence, of calm, in order to center our hearts, let go of those things in our lives that we regret, asking God for the peace and joy of forgiveness. *Silence*

Know this, already your world is a little bit calmer and brighter having offered to God the bits of chaos clouding your life. Now the dark skies give way to beams of light illuminating your way. Move forward into God's future, forgiven and free...

Let us pray together:

Lord, we are still the people walking on this Advent journey. We are still people in the dark, and the darkness looms large around us, beset as we are by fear, anxiety, brutality, violence, loss — a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.

We are — we could be — people of your light. So we pray for the light of your glorious presence as we wait;

we pray for the light of your wondrous grace as we exhaust our coping capacity;
we pray for your gift of newness that will override our weariness;
we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust in your good rule, that we may have
energy, courage, and freedom to enact your rule through the demands of this day. ²

We pray as Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

* GIVING OUR TITHES, OFFERINGS AND OURSELVES

*DOXOLOGY

#95

Go

*CLOSING SONG

Star Child

#2095

BEING AGENTS OF JOY IN THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

Go with God into this day. May the Spirit guide your way.
Offer hope to all you greet. Like Christ, see God in all you meet.

*WE FOLLOW THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD.

Bind Us Together

#2226

POSTLUDE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

*Let us stand in body or in spirit

¹Liturgy today from Worship Design Studio

²Walter Bruggemann, *Prayers for a Privileged People*

COMING UP

Tue, Dec 20, 6pm – Longest Night Service at Eagle Grove. The UCC will join us; everyone is invited to come to this ecumenical time for reflection and remembrance in this season. Bring that person you know who's searching for peace and hope. What a gift to give!

Christmas Eve - carols, candles, communion. Worship-5pm at Goldfield, 7pm at Eagle Grove.

There will NOT be worship in-house on Christmas Day. A service presented by our Iowa Conference Cabinet will be available online. The link will be sent to you, and posted on Facebook. Invite your family to join you at a convenient time.

We also will not worship in person on New Year's Day – Pastor will have a brief recorded message on Facebook. On January 8, we will gather for a Wesley Covenant Service and Communion.

Pastor Alaire will be on vacation, spending time with her family from 12/25-1/6. Pastoral care has been arranged. Admin Amy Hunt will be on vacation 12/22-1/3. Contact Pat Manues, 515-570-6268 or Boyd/Del Crees, 515-571-7023 in an emergency.

The Eagle Grove UMC office will closed between Christmas and January 3. Plans are for the next newsletter to be sent out the week of January 10.