



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

United Presbyterian Church
1701 East Second Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Deacon Souheil Haddad
Guest Speaker

812-332-1850 www.upcbloomington.org

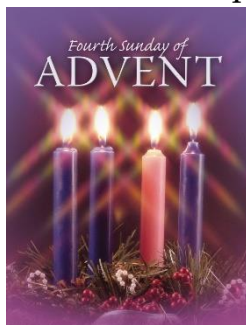
United Presbyterian Church Worship Guide
December 22, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder Allen Pease

PRELUDE

Benjamin Watkins, piano



Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Love – Phillip Addison

CALL TO WORSHIP

Phillip Addison, liturgist

Liturgist: Caretaking God, come, unleash the mystery of your power.

People: **Restore us, O God of hosts and give us life.**

Liturgist: Restore us with your strength.

People: **Renew us and give us vision. Give us life as we call upon your name.**

Liturgist: **Let us worship God.**

*OPENING HYMN *We Three Kings* #66



PASSING OF THE PEACE

Liturgist: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Liturgist: Let us share the peace with one another.

Feel free to greet those around you.

CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison with Liturgist)

Sometimes, O God, we are no better than Joseph. Sometimes we want to dismiss you quietly, embarrassed by our own trust in you. Forgive us those times when we have denied you, when we have looked the other way in the face of another's need for us.

Emmanuel, God with us, forgive us for not recognizing the signs of You among us.

Forgive us our unfaithfulness, for the times it was easier to do something other than follow you. Increase our love for one another and our love for you. Amen.

(all pray in silence....)

ASSURANCE of PARDON (Liturgist)

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might

be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Mary, Did You Know?

Marielle Hug

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION by Deacon Souheil Haddad

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

THE WORD, READ AND PROCLAIMED

New Testament Lesson *John 11:35* (Liturgist)

Liturgist: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**



The Sermon



Deacon Souheil Haddad

*Hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter* #36

AFFIRMATION of FAITH— The Apostle's Creed (traditional) led by Deacon S. Haddad
I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Gloria Patri.* #579

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER – led by Elder Alejandra Haddad
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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Offertory: *Ave Maria*—F. Schubert

Marielle Hug

**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Elder Alejandra Haddad

***Closing Hymn** *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* #28

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

Elder Alejandra Haddad

POSTLUDE*Sleepers Awake!* Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC is receiving the annual PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering this Sunday and December 28. 50% of your gifts open doors which lead to relief for church workers and their families when critical needs arise. 50% of your gifts open doors of opportunity which lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

The Like family as they mourn the loss of Lance's father Cameron Keith Like

The UPC Congregation as they embark on their 192nd year

Bob Hammel Kathleen Olds Anita Steverson

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by the Colby's

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

Our military men and women around the world

The people of Georgia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Middle East, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine

Our military men and women stationed around the world

The UPC Session as they seek a part-time Pastor for our congregation

The faculty and staff of Monroe County United Ministries

Prayers of gratitude and safety for our First Responders

Specialized ministries in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley – We pray for those members of our Presbytery who have been called to ministries outside the local parish setting, including those serving in hospitals or hospice care, in institutions caring for older adults or persons with disabilities, in campus ministries, at centers providing resources for congregations, at camp and conference centers, and offering pastoral and spiritual care to pastors and their families.

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley is fortunate to have so many such ministers in our midst, as they also offer pulpit supply and sacramental leadership in our congregations, moderate sessions without pastors, and contribute their gifts on presbytery committees and commissions. We are grateful for their energy, intelligence, imagination, and love!

**United Presbyterian Church Staff**

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