

STORM LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 24, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
COLOR: PURPLE

PRELUDE

"Sheep May Safely Graze"
"Two Christmas Hymns"

Deanna Larson, organist
J.S. Bach
J.W. Kerr

WELCOME

Please stand and join in singing...

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"The First Noel (1-4)"

Rev. Kiboko I. Kiboko

UMH # 245

-Verse 1-

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

-Chorus-

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

-Verse 2-

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

-Chorus-

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

-Verse 3-

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went

-Chorus-

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

-Verse 4-

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay

-Chorus-

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Please join in the Call to Worship and read responsively...

Bob North

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 133)**

- L: Relatives conceive—one a barren woman, the other a young girl who has not been with a man.
P: **How can this be?**
L: With God, all things are possible.
P: **Our hearts beat with laughter. Our lips sing of God's glory.**
L: Let us magnify the Lord as we worship God this day.

Please join in the...

Bob North

OPENING PRAYER (Luke 1, Romans 16)

Come to us, Promised One, in this season of waiting. Set our hearts ablaze with the glory of your salvation. Set our minds afire with the richness of your Word. Reveal to us the secret of your ways; for you alone are wise, you alone are worthy of our thanks and praise. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

"Glory Be to the Father"

UMH # 70

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning
Is now, and ever shall be
World without end.
Amen, Amen

Please be seated and join in the...

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful (1-3)"

UMH # 234

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

-Chorus-

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

-Verse 2-

True God of true God
Light from Light Eternal
Lo he shuns not the Virgin's womb
Son of the Father
Begotten not created

-Chorus-

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord
(continued...)

-Verse 3-
Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God all
Glory in the highest

-Chorus-
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE

Rev. Kiboko I. Kiboko

*Please observe a short moment of silence after each prayer, then the leader would conclude: Lord, in your mercy, and all may respond: **Hear our prayer.***
Together, let us pray:

L: for the people of this congregation...(moment of silence)
Lord, in your mercy. **P: Hear our prayer**
L: for those who suffer and those in trouble...(Moment of silence)
Lord, in your mercy. **P: Hear our prayer**
L: for the concerns of this local community...(Moment of silence)
Lord, in your mercy. **P: Hear our prayer**
L: for the world, its peoples, and its leaders...(Moment of silence)
Lord, in your mercy. **P: Hear our prayer**

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT LIGHTING OF FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT

Kylea, Brianna, Liam, Nataliah Ledesma. Layton Hinrich

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

All: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

HYMN OF ILLUMINATION "Thy Word is a Lamp"

UMH #601

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

Bob North

SERMON

"The Lord Is With You"

Rev. Kiboko I. Kiboko

MOMENT OF TRANSFORMATION

(This is a moment for us to commune with God. Feel free to pray right where you are, or you can come to the altar as we sing "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" (UMH # 204).

Emmanuel Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel
(repeat all)

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERING

"Away in a Manger"

G. Young

Tithing & Offerings / online giving / VENMO: @StormLake-UMC
Offering plates will be passed.

Please sign the attendance books at the end of each pew, and pass down the row.

Please stand and join in singing...

*DOXOLOGY

No 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***OFFERTORY PRAYER (In Unison)**

Bob North

Gracious and Generous God: We offer our gifts to you, knowing that the energy exerted in our giving is tiny compared to what we've expended finding the gifts for our families and friends. You have given us a glimpse of the gift you truly seek in the angel's conversation with Mary: when told that she would give birth to our savior, she simply said, "Yes, let it be according to your word." May that affirmation of faith and obedience be the gift we offer this day. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Kiboko I. Kiboko

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "Joy to the World"**

UMH # 246

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

-Verse 2-

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

-Verse 3-

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

-Verse 4-

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

POSTLUDE

"Toccata"

Deanna Larson, organist
R. Hudson