



Bel Air United Methodist Church

2nd Sunday of Advent – December 8, 2024 – 9:15 AM

Gathering Music & Announcements

Jeff Beyers

Call to Worship (Isaiah 64:1-2)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

As when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

To make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

**Speak to us and comfort us once again, that we might know that our Savior is coming.
Amen!**

Opening Hymn*

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide; let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and live in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won; eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Opening Prayer* (United Methodist Prayer)

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, Our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles – Love

Waylan, Shannon, & Quinn Smith

We continue in our second week of Advent.

Today, our candle symbolizes love –

The love that God has for each of us, and

The love that we're to have for one another.

Christ is the true love of the world.

It's in him that we place our faith; Christ is our model for love.

We hear the message each year:

“God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.”

As we await his coming,

We trust in his faithfulness.

We know that Christ, by his love, brings unity to all people.

(Light two candles)

“The darkness is passing away,

And the true light is already shining.”

Christ is the true light, who illumines our world

And all those around us.

Come, Lord Jesus, and fill our hearts with your love. Amen.

Chancel Choir

Long Ago, arr. Jacob Narverud

Directed by Dave Tramontana

Moment for Ministry

Munyarari Medical Clinic

Dave Talbot

Prayer of Confession and Silent Prayer

Debbie Englar

Words of Assurance (I Timothy 1: 15)

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,

That Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am foremost.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ (Based on Matthew 18:20)

In Jesus Christ, we know God’s forgiveness and peace. Let that peace be felt throughout our sanctuary today. When two or more are gathered in Christ’s name, Christ is with us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

1 John 1:1-10

Hymn*

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Offering Our Gifts

This moment of reflection is an opportunity to consider your response to God. How will you demonstrate your love for God? How will you give of your time, your talents, and your treasures? Please consider giving electronically; ask us how?

**Doxology ***

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication*

God of Grace, we give thanks for your faithfulness to us. We give thanks for your hope in us. We rejoice in the knowledge of your unending grace. In the light of your mercy, and confidence in your love, we dedicate these offerings, and ourselves to you. Amen.

Communion and 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 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.

Pastoral Prayer**Sneak Peek at Christmas Hymn***

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim the Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Benediction***Acolyte**

Ellie Barcena



Welcome Fellowship – We're glad that you're here. You're invited to a time of fellowship in room 202 immediately after worship today.

Christmas Eve Yard Signs – Grab a Christmas Eve Yard sign and put it in your yard. It's a fun and simple way to invite your neighbors to celebrate with us on Christmas Eve. Pick up your yard sign today at the Welcome Desk.

Advent Candle Lighting - We are looking for volunteers to light the candles and do a short reading during our Christmas Eve services. Please sign up via the link in the e-Spire or call the church office. Families or individuals are all welcome and encouraged!

Advent Books – The Advent theme this year will follow the book, *The Christmas Letters*, by Magrey DeVega. If you'd like a copy of the book, please pick one up from the church office for \$12. The sermons at each service throughout Advent will follow the book. Please join Pastor Deb at Mt. Carmel, at 2:00 pm on Sundays, for a more detailed focus on this book.

Christmas Ornaments for Sale – Creation Care team will be selling Christmas ornaments for only \$15. Proceeds go to the Audubon Center. To purchase, visit the Creation Care Team table, outside the Narthex starting this Sunday.

Alternative Christmas Giving – Our Chabadza team has one remaining task, to help the Munyarari people sustain the medical clinic. To accomplish this, we will be building a greenhouse complex at the Munyarari Mission. The complex will grow and market produce for both domestic and export customers. Please visit our table outside the Narthex during the month of December to make a donation and/or to learn more about the greenhouse project.

Evensong – Please join Pastor Deb via Facebook Live on Thursday evenings at 7 pm beginning December 5th-26th.

Deck the Stalls Ministry Volunteers Needed! December 13th and 14th at the Equestrian Center. We are looking for volunteers to be a part of the Live Nativity, Narrators, and singers. If you are interested, sign up at the Information Desk!

Christmas Cantata – Sunday, December 22nd at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary.

Children's Choir – Our children's choir (Grades K-5) meets on Sundays in Room 103 (the choir room) from 10:30-11:15 am.

Youth Choir – Open to all youth 6th-12th grades. Rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary from 8:30-9:00 am on the following Sundays: December 8, 15, and 22. Contact Kristen Brought for more information. Hope to see you there!

Special Christmas Music – Are you able to share your music? This would be an incredible gift to God and to each of us. If you're able to offer worship music before any of the sanctuary services, please let Dave Tramontana or Pastor Byron know. Thanks!

Finance Update:

October Income: \$78,827

October Expenses: \$97,506

October (Loss): **(\$18,680)**

YTD Year-to-date (Loss): **(\$47,524)**

Our **2025 (M&Ms) Missions and Ministries** campaign is underway. Thank you for returning your pledge card. It's not too late to participate. Please let us know if you need an additional card. Thank you for your prayerful response.

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Services – Tuesday, December 24th**

11:00 am – Sanctuary – Communion Service

4:00 pm – Children and Family Service

6:00 pm – Mt. Carmel

7:00 pm – Sanctuary

8:00 pm – Mt. Carmel

9:00 pm – Sanctuary

Bel Air United Methodist Church

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