

Salem in Ballwin
United Methodist Church

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 15, 2019 10:00 AM

Please sign the registration pad at the end of the pew and pass it to the next person.



THOUGHT UPON ENTERING

“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” Isaiah 40:3 KJV How shall we receive to the prophet’s cry? For some, the holidays are not joyful; for them, there is no highway. The prophet’s call falls upon the ears of those willing to hear and heed it; to be a light in the darkness of despair and hopelessness, to show the high way that leads to a joyful relationship with God. Speak joy. Live joy.

WELCOME

Paul Fuhrmann

**PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR
CANDLES**

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Phyllis Hardcastle

Today we light three candles. The first candle reminds us of the hope found in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor. As we light the second candle, we reflected on the love of God in Christ. Continuing our Advent journey, today we joyously light the pink candle to celebrate Mary, her ladyship and her joy.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: You know what time it is.

People: It’s time for shopping and wrapping, for planning festivities, for cleaning and decorating, for baking, for welcoming guests and family.

Leader: Christ is coming. It’s time to prepare.

People: How can we best do this?

Leader: Pause, be silent, and listen to God, then sing for joy for all that God delivers.

ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Leader: Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, we do not find a peace that only you can give. Help us to be quiet enough to hear your voice and still enough to feel your loving touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. **ALL: Amen.**

***OPENING CAROL #220**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

ADVENT PRAYER OF ASPIRATION (unison)

In this Advent season when the past has fled, unasked, away, and there is nothing left to do but wait: **God shelter us. Be our surrounding darkness; be the fertile soil out of which hope springs in due time. In this black night of uncertainty, help us to greet the dawn and labor on, in faith awaiting the unfolding of your purpose, hidden in you, waiting to be born in the fullness of time. Amen.**

SILENT 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.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CANTATA

(see insert)

MESSAGE

Paul Fuhrmann

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

“Good King Wenceslaus”

