

# Welcome to Rectortown United Methodist Church

*No matter where you have been or where you have failed to be –  
what you have said or what you have failed to say - what you have  
done or what you have failed to do - whom you have loved or whom  
you have failed to love - you are welcome here.*

## **ENTRANCE**

**PRELUDE** - let us quiet our minds, hearts, and spirits as we begin to focus on the presence of God as we become aware of the *Light of Christ* in our midst.

## **WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and CELEBRATIONS**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

“Advent Song, stanza 4” TFWS 2090

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted the Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020, pp. 273-274)

O my soul, magnify the Lord. God is worthy to be praised.

L: God looks kindly on us when we are at our lowest.

**P: Rejoice in God our Savior.**

L: God has done great things for us in times past. God will do great things for us in days to come.

**P: Rejoice in God our Savior.**

L: Christ’s mercy is upon us, offering hope in times of despair.

**P: Rejoice in God our Savior.**

L: Christ’s love has made us whole.

**P: Rejoice in God our Savior.**

L: The Spirit’s power disarms our pride and prejudice.

**P: Rejoice in God our Savior.**

L: The Spirit’s power strengthens our mercy and compassion.

**P: Rejoice in God our Savior.**

L: Even as we are filled this day, may we go forth to nourish a world in need.

**P: Rejoice in God our Savior.**

### **OPENING PRAYER** (adapted the Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020, p. 274)

**Most loving and gracious God – pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here. AS we follow in Mary’s footsteps, open our hearts, so that we might be filled with your goodness and your love. Live in us, so that we might bear the Christ light for all to see. Overshadow us with your presence, so that we might truly be blessed and offer your blessing of love to all the world. These things we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**HYMN** Once In Royal David’s City

UMH 250

### **YOUNG DISCIPLES’ MESSAGE**

The Christmas Story as told by children...

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

(adapted from FOTW Worship Companion, Yr. B, Vol 1, p. 17)

**Loving God, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of your Son. Fill us with good things so that we may conceive your reign on earth and glorify you according to your Word. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1:26-38

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM OF PRAISE**

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1:46-55

\* Glory Be to the Father

UMH 70

**MESSAGE** Waiting and preparing in love...

**HYMN** O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**GIVING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

Offertory Prayer

*THANKSGIVING*

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

**HYMN** We Three Kings

UMH 254

*SENDING FORTH*

**SENDING FORTH**

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 242

*This worship service has ended, and now your service begins.  
As you leave church today, you are entering the mission field.*

**Questions for Reflection**

(adapted from FOTW Worship Companion, Year B, Volume 1, p. 18)

Mary's song proclaims that God is lifting up the lowly while scattering the proud, and feeding the hungry while sending the rich away with empty hands. How does this change the way you think about God's coming reign of justice and favor? How does this change the way you live?

**Rectortown United Methodist Church**

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**Rectortown United  
Methodist Church**

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 10:00 a.m.



*Bishop: Sharma D. Lewis*

*District Superintendent: Rev. Charles F. Ledlum-Bates*

*Pastor: Rev. Steven W. Weedling*

*4082 Rectortown Road, Marshall, VA 20115*

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*Pastor's Cell Phone: (540) 340-2569*

*Pastor's E-mail: steveweeding@vaumc.org*

*Ministers: every member of the congregation*