



A Thrill of HOPE

Sunday, December 8, 2024

*Prayer candles are available at the communion rail
Financial gifts may be made in the wooden offering boxes
Please silence your electronic devices*

THE GATHERING & CARILLON PRELUDE

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP
Once He Came in Blessing Paul Manz

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE ENTRANCE HYMN* UMH #209
Blessed Be the God of Israel

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Liturgist
God of Grace, you blow the breath of life into our lungs, you have formed us in your image.
And yet we acknowledge that sometimes we are not who you would have us be.

Liturgist
You challenge us to embrace the refining fire of your love, to meet you on the threshing floor of life, to be washed as with fuller's soap.
But in our heart of hearts we would rather keep those things that would be removed in such an encounter.

Liturgist
Through your Grace, life-giving God, accept us as we are,
Unrefined, unwashed, the chaff mixed in with the grain.

Liturgist
And help us to move into a new way of being.

A time of silence is kept

Liturgist

Listen! For this is Good News! God's Grace is wider than our wildest imaginings. God's Grace embraces us as we are and where we are and draws us out to be the people we were created to be.
Thanks be to God! AMEN.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

Pastor
Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

AMEN.

THE ADVENT RESPONSE* UMH #206
Refrain of I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
Malachi 3: 1 - 4

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Pastor
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC Lloyd Larson
Come, Messiah!

THE THANKSGIVING & DOXOLOGY*
UMH #219 (verse 3)

THE GOSPEL LESSON
Luke 1: 68 - 79

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD UMH #204
Emmanuel, Emmanuel

THE MESSAGE Reverend Don Ackerman
In All Our Trials, Born to Be Our Friend

THE CLOSING HYMN* UMH #203
Hail To the Lord's Anointed

THE BENEDICTION*

THE POSTLUDE Johann Pachelbel
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

* - Please stand as you are able
UMH - The United Methodist Hymnal

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Ronald Leonard
Liturgist

The Reverend Don Ackerman
Lead Pastor

The Crossroads Choir
Beth Polen, *Director of Music Ministries*

Christopher Dazey
Organist, Pianist & Carillonneur

TODAY AT CROSSROADS

Oatmeal Breakfast
6:30 am - Wesley Hall

Bible Study
9:00 am - Wesley Hall

Worship
10:00 am - Sanctuary

New Vision Lunch
1:00 pm - Wesley Hall

Men of Tomorrow
3:00 pm - Youth Room and Gymnasium

Gibbs Food Ministry

Friday, December 13
2:00 pm - Fmr Free Store Wing

Happy Birthday
12/10 — Ed Fashbaugh
John Drumm, Julie Smith
Hannah Detchon
12/11 — Charles Monat
12/14 — Thomas Syler

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
Poinsettias are now available for \$10
Order forms are located on the wooden tables throughout the sanctuary
Forms must be received by Wednesday, December 18 for publication in the Christmas Eve Bulletin


NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS SHOP
Saturday, December 14
Community Christmas shop for 44703 residents
Use our gift wishlist on Amazon at this URL:
[cantonforallpeople.org/amazon](https://www.amazon.com/cantonforallpeople)

CHRISTMAS EVE
Tuesday, December 24
Our traditional candlelight service at 5:00 pm
Featuring the Camarada Brass
with our Christmas festival choir and organ
Music begins at 4:30 pm

Help Spread Christmas Cheer

Oatmeal Ministry Gift Bag
Both men's crew socks and women's socks are needed
Candy should be individually wrapped
We are also accepting any baked or bought cookies
Please have your donations in by December 15!

MUSIC NOTES

 Today's organ meditation is by Paul Manz (1919-2009). Manz, born in Cleveland, was primarily a Lutheran church musician who wrote extensively for choir and organ. The words of the hymn (*Gottes Sohn ist Kommen*) are: Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing; Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy; Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

To help keep our sacred space clean, at the conclusion of the service,
please return this bulletin to one of the wooden tables located throughout the sanctuary

CROSSROADS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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