



# Cheltenham United Methodist Church

THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART

Sunday, December 10, 2023

10am

## Christmas Time

BEST TIME OF THE YEAR

**Worship with via Zoom**

**<https://bit.ly/CUMCSundayServices>**

**Via Facebook**

**[www.facebook.com/CheltenhamUMC](https://www.facebook.com/CheltenhamUMC)**

**To Call In:**

**Dial +1 (301) 715-8592**

**Meeting ID: 861 6676 4909#**

**Password: 001873**



**Scan it to access the church's webpage**

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**  
**(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME & CANDLE LIGHTING**

Reader 1: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

**Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

**CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING**

In the middle of dark times, our Lord cries out:

**"Comfort, comfort my people!"**

When it seems as though we cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel,

**Our Lord says to us, "Be at peace, for your time of difficulty has ended."**

Lord, we await the time of comfort and peace!

**Lord, we are thankful for your compassion and never-failing love for us. AMEN.**

**PRAYER**

**In the wilderness, God, prompt us to hear the cries of the lost and alienated.**

**Allow us to extend hope and peace to all in need.**

**Prepare us to be pathways of peace and life-transforming love in your name.**

**We embrace the spirit of Jesus, praying for openness, compassion, and the strength to care for the overlooked. Amen.**

**+HYMN**

**"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**

UMH 251

*Words: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by John W. Work, Jr., 1907 (Lk. 2:8-20)*

*Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986*

*Tune: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN*

*Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. CCLI License Account #3551380*

*Refrain*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens  
there shown a holy light.

*Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled,  
when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed the Savior's birth.

*Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

*Refrain*

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 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.**

+HYMN

"Emmanuel, Emmauel"

UMH 204

*Words: Bob McGee, 1976 (Mt. 1:23)*

*Music: Bob McGee, 1976*

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Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
*his name is called Emmanuel.*  
*God with us, revealed in us,*  
*his name is called Emmanuel.*  
(2x)

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON  
NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

“A Prophetic Prelude”

Rev. Daein Park

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

+OFFERTORY

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

UMH 216

+DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

## GOING FORTH

+HYMN

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

UMH 218

*Words: Issac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98:4-9)*

*Music: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848*

*Tune: ANTIOCH*

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It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven’s all gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o’er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o’er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! For glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing,  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

+BENEDICTION

## ***Upcoming Events***

### **Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

Monday Methodists 9am

### **Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

Pastor's Office Hours 2pm-4pm

### **Thursday, December 14, 2023**

Pastor's Office Hours 10am-12noon

Senior Luncheon 12noon

*\*If you need to connect with the pastor for a meeting, you can send an email to [cumcpastorpark@gmail.com](mailto:cumcpastorpark@gmail.com) or give him a call at 202-802-4302*

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### **Sunday, December 24, 2023**

Christmas Eve Service 6pm

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## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSV** • <sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers; the flower fades, [[when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers; the flower fades,]] but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Mark 1:1-8 NRSV** • <sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,' " <sup>4</sup> so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."