

Order of Worship

Our Spirit Waits

December 17, 2023 10:00 AM

Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Prelude Procession and Meditation on *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Chancel Ringers and Chapel Bells

arr. Karen Thompson

Welcome

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The Candle of Joy

Leader: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. (Isaiah 61:1).

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting persistent joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

People: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Leader: We light these candles as signs of our surprising hope, just peace, and persistent joy. May our lives shine with the persistent, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Hymn

The King of Glory Comes

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Merciful God,
The stories of your faithfulness abound,
yet we confess that we do not trust in your provision and care for us.
We go our own way, longing for joy and peace,
but not recognizing our need

for communion with you and our neighbors.

People: God, restore us to the joy of our common life in you.

Leader: Loving God, we witness the struggles to live and thrive all around us.

We confess that we are overwhelmed by what is required
to love our neighbors.

We doubt that we can really work together to tend
to the needs that keep us apart.

People: God, restore us to the joy of our common life in you.

Leader: Liberating God, we remember now those who mourn and are oppressed,
as we offer our silent confession to you.

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Leader: Beloved, hear this good news:

God's love never fails,
and is always at work
to bring us back to God and one another.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**People: May God restore us to the joy of our common life now and always.
Amen.**

Anthem

People, Look East

arr. Malcolm Archer

Chancel Choir and Chapel Bells

Children's Message

Scripture

Luke 1:46-55

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Mary's Carol

Rev. Wines

Anthem

Our Hope Is in Emmanuel

Victor C. Johnson

Chancel Choir, Kendra Craven, flute

Offering

You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.

*You may text to give at 84321 or go to the Online Worship page of our website
and click "Make your online offering."*

Sending Forth

Rev. Wines

Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

Benediction

Rev. Wines

Postlude

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Kevin McChesney

Chancel Ringers

Prayer of confession adapted from a prayer written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.