



Forest Grove United Methodist Church

Know God • Build Community • Impact the World

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

+SONGS

Savior of the Nations, Come
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 214
UMH 240

WORD

OPENING PSALM

Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

Shepherd of Israel, listen!

You, the one who leads Joseph as if he were a sheep.

You, who are enthroned upon the winged heavenly creatures.

Show yourself before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh!

Wake up your power! Come to save us!

Restore us, God!

Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

Lord God of heavenly forces,

how long will you fume against your people's prayer?

You've fed them bread made of tears;

you've given them tears to drink three times over!

You've put us at odds with our neighbors;

our enemies make fun of us.

Restore us, God of heavenly forces!

Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

Let your hand be with the one on your right side—

with the one whom you secured as your own—

then we will not turn away from you!

Revive us so that we can call on your name.

Restore us, Lord God of heavenly forces!

Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But when the king refused, God would not be

stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel."

God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

CANDLE SONG

Prepare the Way

Refrain: Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord,
prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord.

Hatred has kept our world broken. We act as if we weren't the same,
but God warms our hearts so we hold one another in love. *Refrain*

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:10–16

GREEK SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18–25

SERMON

Give You a Sign

Rev. Dr. David King

RESPONSE

+HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 242

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DK.II.7

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. O save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God of hope and promise: when the children were in deep despair, you promised them a sign, the indication of a Savior coming into their midst. As we bring you our tithes and offerings this day, so many of us are discouraged, trying to find our way. We need your sign, we need your Son, not as simply a reminder of history but as a new direction, a revolution of love that starts in our hearts, a resurrection of compassion that looks beyond self and the accumulation of more and more things that don't satisfy. We need what only a Savior can give us. Guide us by your signs on this day and as we begin the journey to Bethlehem once again. In the Savior's name, we pray. Amen.

(UMDM)

SENDING

+HYMN Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine FWS 2099

+BENEDICTION

+DISMISSAL

Go in peace and serve God and neighbor in everything that you do.
We are sent in Christ's name. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols, December 24th, 7pm
Christmas Day Worship, 10am. No Early Church.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 18th, 2022**

Focus Scriptures:
Isaiah 7:10–16, Matthew 1:18–25