December 22, 2024

*FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

Rev. David Fuquay

***Hope Is Worth the Risk***

Matthew 1:18-25 | Luke 1:46-55



Welcome to Wesley, Your Home on Campus.

*A place to believe, belong, become and be you!*

*Connect with us at wesleyui.org*

*Welcome to Wesley Church!*

*We invite you to worship, grow, and serve with us*

*as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Gathering

**Prelude** *Bring a Torch Jeannette, Isabella*  Brass Quintet

*Ding Dong Merrily on High!*

**Welcome & Greeting** Rev. David Fuquay

**Introit** *Joy to the World* Brass Quintet

**\*Call to Worship** Rev. Yiwen Bi

In this weary world, we hold onto hope

**In this fragile world, we pray for peace.**

In this beautiful world, we sing of joy.

**In this tender world, we share God’s love**

This is the invitation of faith.

**In this time of worship, may we pray, sing, and share**

**the good news of our God-with-us, Emmanuel.**

**With love in our hearts, amen!**

**\*Opening Hymn #213 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***  see page 5 🡪

**Lighting the Candle of Love**     Mike and Jane McCulley

**Response #242 *Love Came Down at Christmas*** see page 6 🡪

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ** Congregation

**A Time for the Child in Each of Us** Rev. Yiwen Bi

Centering

**Sharing Joys and Concerns** Rev. David Fuquay

**Call To Prayer #204** ***Emmanuel, Emmanuel***

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.*

**Pastoral Prayer** Rev. David Fuquay

**The Lord’s Prayer** Congregation

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.

**Response to Prayer** #**204** ***Emmanuel, Emmanuel***

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.*

**Prayer for Illumination** Ray Norton

**Holy God, the stories of Advent are stories many of us have heard before. We’ve arranged the nativity scenes. We’ve read the children’s books. We’ve seen the movies. We’ve sung the songs. But as we come to your scripture this morning, we pray: help us begin again. Center us in this space. Speak to us here and now. We are listening. We are hopeful. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 1:18-25 | Luke 1:46-55

**Scriptural Response** Congregation

Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.

**Every valley will be filled,**

**and every mountain and hill will be leveled.  
The crooked path will be made straight**

**and the rough places made smooth.  
All humanity will see God’s salvation.**

**Hymn of Preparation #216 *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*** see page 7 🡪

***Hope Is Worth the Risk*** Rev. David Fuquay

Thanksgiving

**Offering Invitation**  Rev. David Fuquay

**Offertory** *In the Bleak Midwinter* Brass Quintet

**Prayer of Dedication** Rev. Yiwen Bi

**\*Doxology for Advent** Tune: Old 100th

***Praise God for gifts of hope and peace***

***Praise God for gifts of joy and love***

***Praise God for sending Christ to dwell***

***On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.***

Going Forth

**Closing Hymn #250 *Once in Royal David's City*** see page 8 🡪

**Opportunities to Connect and Serve** Rev Yiwen Bi

**\*Benediction** Rev. David Fuquay

**\*Benediction response** *Benediction*      by Laurie Matheson

O God of love, help me to be more loving

God of forgiveness, help me to forgive

God of all grace, help me to be more gracious

God of all gifts, help me more freely give

O God of truth, help me to work for justice

O God of mercy, help me to be kind

O God of peace and goodness, help me serve you

With all my heart and strength and mind.

**Postlude** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*  Brass Quintet

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

**We are pleased to welcome the Brass Quintet**

**as our guest musicians for today’s service:**

Verlin Richardson, trumpet

Herb Whiteley, trumpet

Brian Lauthen, French horn

Rob Rypka, trombone

Dave Ivy, tuba

Weekly Calendar

**Sunday, December 22**

**ASSISTING TODAY**

**Coffee Hour Host**

Sam Jew Kim

**Ushers**

Diana & Steve Herriott

9:30am Traditional Service – Sanctuary

10:30am Coffee Hour – Watseka Lounge

11:00am Animate Study – Student Lounge

11:00am Scriptural Foundations – Conf. Room

11:20am Eleven20 Worship – Etc. Coffeehouse

**Monday, December 23**

8:00am Office Open

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**Text the amount you want to give   
to 844-785-0946**

**or follow the QR code**

[www.wesleyui.org/giving](http://www.wesleyui.org/giving)

1203 W. Green St.

Urbana, IL, 61801

**Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

8:00am Office Open

7:00pm Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day**

Building/Office Closed

**Thursday, December 19** **& Friday, December 20**

*Office hours by appointment—please call ahead.*

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

9:30am Traditional Service – Sanctuary

10:30am Coffee Hour – Watseka Lounge

**No Eleven20 Service**

1:00 pm Garrett Forrest/Kiara Garcia Wedding

*All Wesley members are invited*

Get Involved

**CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESLEY**

**Traditional Candlelight Service**

**Tuesday, December 24, at 7:00 pm**

Experience a sacred evening of worship in our beautiful sanctuary. This traditional service weaves together the timeless Christmas story from Luke and Matthew, beloved carols, and the warmth of candlelight to celebrate the birth of Christ. Come and celebrate the joy of God’s love. All are welcome to this special gathering of scripture, song, and Holy Communion. We look forward to sharing the hope and peace of Christmas with you!

**ADVENT OFFERING**

This Advent, support global and local relief efforts through Midwest Mission and UMCOR's International Disaster Response Fund (Advance #982450). Donate via check to Wesley UMC (marked Advent Offering) or online at [www.wesleyui.org/giving](http://www.wesleyui.org/giving).

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**STAFF LOVE GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS**

The Advent Season provides an opportunity for all of us to show our Wesley staff how very much they are appreciated. Please consider giving a "Love Gift," to be shared among all staff as a Christmas bonus. Give by check (write "Staff Love Gift" on the memo line) or online at [www.wesleyui.org/giving](http://www.wesleyui.org/giving). *Staff-Parish Relations/Personnel Committee*

**WESLEY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**

Beautiful 2.5-inch glass ornaments featuring the Nativity from the Christ Window and the United Methodist cross and flame are available for $15 each. Proceeds benefit the Wesley Children's Advent Giving Project. Limited quantities! Purchase after worship from Barb Hughes or email her at [blhughes3@gmail.com](mailto:blhughes3@gmail.com). Payment by check or cash.

Wesley Info

**Main Office:** 217.344.1120

1203 West Green St.

Urbana, IL 61801

**Emergency Contact:** Donna Giffen – 217.377.8042

**Sunday Services Wesley Building Hours**:

9:30 a.m. Traditional Service Open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Eleven20 Coffeehouse Worship (11:20 a.m.) Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.