



For unto

US A

Savior

IS

Born



WELCOME!

Worship 9:00 AM



EDISTO ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



4th Sunday of Advent - Purple

December 22, 2024

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

People: before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

People: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

Leader: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (back of bulletin)
Violet McKenney & Patti Smyer

*HYMN UMH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* UMH 881

*GLORIA PATRI

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORSHIP GOD WITH HIS TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS

ANTHEM

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*HYMN UMH

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-20

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON MESSAGE

Rev. Wayne Racz

*HYMN "UMH

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

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

POSTLUDE

**Please Stand if Able*

SCRIPTURE

¹At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ²(This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. ⁸That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹²And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." ¹⁵When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

ADVENT 4

Luke 1:39-45: "At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" (**Light Advent Candle**)

In the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth described in today's Lesson, we learn that other people can help us recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Mary traveled to see Elizabeth because Elizabeth's pregnancy was a sign that everything the angel told Mary would truly happen. Elizabeth recognized Mary as the mother of her Lord because her unborn child, John the Baptist, leapt at the sound of Mary's greeting. Elizabeth and Mary rejoiced together at the wonderful things God was doing in their lives. We too are blessed when we have people who help us recognize God's action in our lives. We pray that our family can be this for one another.

As you gather as a family, observe that sometimes we need the help of others to recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Ask: What did Elizabeth recognize about Mary? (that she was to be the mother of Jesus, the Lord) How did Elizabeth know this? (Her baby, John the Baptist, leapt with joy at Mary's greeting.)

Let us Pray: In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. Allow each of us to live with the idea that someone is watching. You are always present with us, permit others to see you in us. Open our eyes to see the Christ in others. May our behavior show forth the Christ in us. AMEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USHER & GREETER: Bert Koon & Les Moffatt

- The PPRC Committee is pleased to announce the SC Conference appointment of our new pastor, Rev. Leonard (Len) C. Ripley, III.
- Beginning December 29, our church service will be at 10:45AM each Sunday.
- We want to thank Johnelle Mische for filling in for Donna, as she recovers from surgery.
- December 29, we will have a Christmas Sing Along service. Pastor Len will officiate.
- The Finance Committee will meet on Friday, January 3 at 1:30PM for a Budget Meeting.
- The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, January 7 at 10:00AM.

PRAYER LIST

Donna Padgette	George Windish	Evan McMillian	Thomas Tindall
Buff Yelton	Ethelynn Boozer	Dennis McCollum	Tiff Tootle
Cliffie Jarrell	Billy & Mary McCollum	Dawn & Berry Wren	

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P.O. Box 485, Edisto Island, SC 29438
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WEBSITE: www.eiumc.org