



FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Bulletin for
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023**

Service is In-Person or on Zoom

ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5166943424?pwd=TWtTVElWUHNXbjVNcnNMaG9wTVJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 5166943424 Password 11735

***The YouTube option is no longer available. Please use Zoom instead.**

WELCOME TO FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023



Rev. Claire Hojung Wu, Pastor
David Majoros, D.M.A., Director of Music
Debbie Cala, Liturgist

GATHERING “I Wonder as I Wander” – J. J. Niles
Conor Muldoon, baritone

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRELUDE** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” UMH #240 (vv 1, 3)
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

THE ANGELS’ MESSAGE: OBEY (RESPONSIVE LITANY)

During Advent we remember God’s faithfulness shown to us.

Help our lives to reflect Your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God’s humility set before us.

Help our lives to reflect Your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God’s commands spoken to us.

Help our lives to reflect Your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God’s incredible love shared with us.

Help our lives to reflect Your ways, O Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Karimi Family

*(The fourth candle is lit while the congregation sings
the fourth stanza of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”)*

UMH #211 (v. 4)

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** reminds us that during Advent we hear again the good news of ultimate hope offered through Jesus Christ. The **second candle** calls us to believe that just as God fulfilled the promise to the Israelites, God’s plan continues to unfold in our world today. The **third candle** calls us to accept that with God nothing is beyond possibility, for we serve a God who can do all things. We light the **fourth candle** as a call to faithful obedience to the ways of God. As we continue our Advent journey, let us hear what God has spoken, believe what God has promised, accept what God has revealed, and obey what God has commanded.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Gracious Lord, open our eyes to the wonders You have done, open our ears to the promises You have spoken, and open our hearts that we might become the people You have called us to be. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” UMH #230 (vv 1, 3, 4)

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

INVOCATION

We bring our spiritual hungers to this place, O God, hoping to be fed. We bring our weariness, expecting to find rest for our souls. We bring our dullness, asking that we might be alerted to those things that you consider important. We come because we want the scattered fragments of our lives to come together in a meaningful wholeness. You have promised to be with us. Reveal yourself to us here, we pray in the name of the One who came to share our common lot. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

“Glory Be to the Father”

UMH #71

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We have resisted the newness you offer. Forgive us, we pray for installing ourselves as reigning deities. Lead us, rather, in paths of trust and obedience. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God does not turn away from steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. The Rock of our salvation keeps covenant with us despite our iniquity. God’s mercy is for all who humbly seek it. God fills the hungry with good things, but the rich are sent away empty. If we have chosen to receive forgiveness and to move away from self-absorption, we will understand God’s pardon and live joyously within it.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)

ANTHEM

“A Christmas Antiphonal” – Hopson
The Chancel Choir with Sharon Lensky, soprano soloist
Hand Bell Ringers: Brayden Suwalski and Nicholas Suwalski

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 89:1-4

***GOSPEL READING:** Luke 2:22-40

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“He is Born”

UMH #228 (vv 1, 3)

SERMON

Pastor Claire Wu

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE

“Amen, Amen”

UMH #897

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

“And the Stars Sang”
Erica Hamill, mezzo-soprano

***DOXOLOGY**

#95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

Our best we give to you, loving God, for you have given your best to us in the mystery of the incarnation. May our offerings proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received with joy. Send your Word to the world in this season through our caring service. May we share it with one another in ways that help us all to grow. We are your servants. The gifts we dedicate are already yours. Thank you for all the ways you have provided for us. Amen.

***HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH #234 (vv 1, 3)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

(* Please stand as you are able.

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR MINISTRY:

UPCOMING LITURGISTS:

December 2023

24th – Christmas Eve

- 7:30 p.m. – Karen Gierie Newman
- 10:30 p.m. – Danny Gastelua

31st – Sherry Tuscano

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

December 2023

24th – Rita & John

31st – UWF

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME, VISITORS!

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today! If this is your first time with us, be sure to stop by the Visitor Center, in the room to the side of the Sanctuary, for a welcome packet and a gift! If you wish to receive our newsletter, please send us your contact information to office@farmingdaleumc.org and visit our website farmingdaleumc.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Trustee Meeting – Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Church Council Meeting – Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7 p.m.

CONCERNS & COMMITMENTS:

Whenever the gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed, the Spirit of God is at work. If you have been touched by God and desire to make a commitment to Christ and to His Church or you would like to have the pastor pray with/for you, please *come to the Altar after worship*, the pastor will meet with you for prayer.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS

We share prayer requests as part of our regular service. Please raise your hand for the microphone to share your prayer concerns and joys with the congregation. If you have private prayer requests, please write your prayer request upon your arrival at the sanctuary, and then pass it to the offering basket during the offertory time. Thank you!

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024

You may pick up your offering envelopes for 2024 in the back of the sanctuary. If you don't see your envelopes or if you would like to get a set of offering envelopes, please let Dwight Andrews or Pastor know.

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2024

Thank you for your pledge cards for the year 2024. Your generosity and faith have been a great blessing to the church. If you have not submitted your card yet, please consider doing so before December 31, 2023. Blank pledge cards are available at the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

The 2024 Spring Lay Servant Ministry Zoom Class Schedule is now available. Please refer to the flyer for more details.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th:

- 7:00 PM – Family Service
- 10:30 PM - Candlelight Service (In person only)
- INVITE & BRING OTHERS TO WORSHIP CHRIST!

FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
407 Main Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735
(516) 694-3424 • Website: www.farmingdaleumc.org Email: office@farmingdaleumc.org
Church Office Hours: Tuesdays- Thursdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
For a link to view the service via on-line please visit www.farmingdaleumc.org