



FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Bulletin for
Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023



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

GATHERING “And the Stars Sang” – J.M. Martin
Erica Hamill, mezzo-soprano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRELUDE** “The King of Glory Comes” FWS #2091
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

THE ANGELS’ MESSAGE: ACCEPTANCE (RESPONSIVE LITANY)

During Advent our eyes are opened to the wonders of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our faith is nurtured by the promise of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our hope is reawakened to the presence of God.

With God all things are possible.

During Advent our lives are touched by the love of God.

With God all things are possible.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Confirmation Class

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

#211 (v. 3)

Today we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time to hear again the message of hope offered through the Savior’s birth. The **second candle** calls us to believe that just as God worked mighty deeds in ages past, God is still actively at work today. The **third candle** is lit as we draw closer to God in faithful acceptance. Advent reminds us that even when God’s ways exceed our understanding, God’s word still demands our trust. As we continue our Advent journey, let us hear what God has spoken, believe what God has promised.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Gracious Lord, as we continue on our Advent journey, help us to hear again the message of the season, to place our faith in Your unfolding promises, and lead us towards full acceptance of Your will as it unfolds in the world and in our lives. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** “Away in a Manger” UMH #217 (vv 1 & 3)

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

INVOCATION

Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for victories over temptation, for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

“Glory Be to the Father”

UMH #71

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All-knowing God, we confess our worry and anxiety over unimportant matters. We admit the fears that make us defensive instead of loving. We acknowledge our resentment over losses we have sustained and oppression we have suffered. We recognize that we have been far more concerned for our own welfare than for the building up of Christ’s body, the church. In our congregation, we have focused on survival more than service. We look for what we can gain more than for what we can give. Re-establish your rule among us, we pray, and save us from ourselves. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has good news for oppressed and captive people, of comfort for the brokenhearted and mourning ones, of hope for those who are devastated. God offers salvation and welcomes us into a covenant relationship. Surely our hearts will know joy, and our voices will ring with laughter. God is faithful and will grant us peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)

CANTATA “The Hope and Glory of the Birth of Christ” – Music by Lloyd Larson

“Come and Worship the Newborn King”

Narration

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Narration

“Christ is Born This Holy Night”

Narration

“Come and Worship the Newborn King” (Finale)

The Chancel Choir

Cantata Singers:

Caleb Carle

Matthew Collorafi

Rita Coughlin

Therese Glielmo

Barbara Grabowski- Schmidt

Erica Hamill

Sharon Lansky

Mary Makosky

Madison Milhous

Conor Muldoon

Alex Swerdlin

Kathy Vecchione

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1:46-56

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”

UMH #215 (vv. 1, 3, 6)

SERMON

Pastor Claire Wu

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE

“Amen Amen”

The Chancel Choir

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY SONG

“One Holy Night in Bethlehem”

FWS #2097

Chancel Choir (vv 1-4) & Congregation (vv 2-4)

***DOXOLOGY**

#95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

In our unworthiness, O God, may we yet bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah. May the brokenhearted be led to enriching new celebrations. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as persons chosen by you to do great things. By your mercy, may the hungry be fed not only with bread but also with opportunities to feed others. We give ourselves as your servants, for no gift is complete without personal commitment. Thank you, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits rejoice in the coming of our Savior. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

UMH #251

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

UMH #251 (Refrain)

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

- 9:30 a.m. – Debbie Cala
- 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.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRIES

- FRIDAY LADIES SMALL GROUP MEETS AT 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM
- SATURDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS AT 8:00 AM-9:00AM VIA ZOOM
- WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY MEETS AT 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM

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.

GIVING TREE:

All items should be unwrapped and must be under the tree by December 17th. Gift cards to general retailers (Target, Walmart, etc.) are also appreciated as they can be used for specific needs or emergencies. Thank you for making Christmas merrier for someone in need!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON:



CHRISTMAS CANTATA: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th - 9:30 AM

This year, our chancel choir will offer their gifts in worship. Join us in worship for this creative and musical retelling of the Christmas story and Christ's miraculous birth.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th:

- 9:30 AM - Sunday Worship Service
- 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