

**PRELUDE** *Ann Kipper*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* **224**

**ADVENT WREATH**

*Luke 1:46-49*

*... God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.*

*Congregation:*

**We wait as people who have encountered divine Love  
that disrupts the status quo  
and ushers us into abundant life  
marked by mutual love and peace  
that flows from the flourishing of all people.**

**HYMN** *The Candle of Hope* TUNE #73  
*by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

***The candle of hope we light in this hour  
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.  
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,  
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.***

***The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;  
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.  
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,  
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.***

***The candle of joy reminds us to sing,  
For God is at work to do a new thing.  
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.  
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.***

***The candle of love tells what we are worth:  
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!  
An angel brought news of a child who would be  
The one who would save us and set us all free.***

**PRAYER**

*FotW*

**Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified  
in the coming of your Son,  
in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah.  
May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness  
as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**EPISTLE READING**

*Pastor*

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

*adapted from FotW*

**Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,  
yet we often make plans without listening to you  
and discover that our human agendas  
can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.  
We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.  
Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins,  
that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.  
{silent prayers}**

*via GBoD/DM*

*Even in this very moment, God comes to us,  
bringing hope, forgiveness, and grace as freely offered gifts to us.*

**We open our hearts to the God who is with us,  
and to receive the gifts which have been offered to us.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**CHOIR** *O Come All, Ye Faithful* **234**  
**SERMON**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Heaven Everywhere*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**INTERCESSIONS**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**  
**BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**  
**DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER**

(Luke 1:26-38)

GBOD/DM

Gracious and Generous God: We offer our gifts to you,  
knowing that the energy exerted in our giving  
is tiny compared to what we've expended  
finding the gifts for our families and friends.  
You have given us a glimpse of the gift you truly seek  
in the angel's conversation with Mary:  
when told that she would give birth to our savior,  
she simply said, "Yes, let it be according to your word."  
May that affirmation of faith and obedience  
be the gift we offer this day. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

**HYMN**

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

**242**

**CHARGE & BLESSING**

Luke 1

FotW

*Do not be afraid, for God is with you  
and will strengthen you in your journey  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever!  
Magnify the Lord and rejoice, for nothing is impossible with God.  
And the blessing of God, who creates, redeems, and restores,  
be with you now and always.*

Amen

**POSTLUDE**

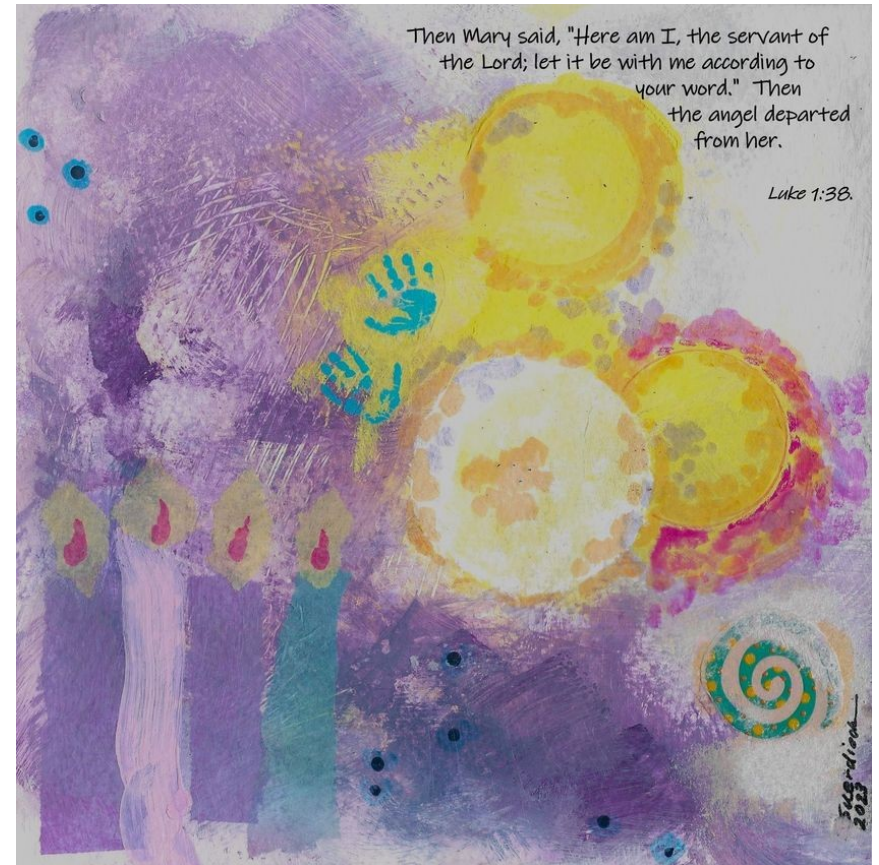
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# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Today we light the candle of love.*



art by Rev. Chris Suerdieck, BWC

**December 24, 2023 - 11:00am**

**Clarksburg United Methodist Church**

23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland  
<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmduc/>

Accompanist: Rick Beede  
Choir Director: Cathy Warfield

**Pastor: Rev. David Hodsdon**

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- [www.youtube.com/@davehodsdon3533](http://www.youtube.com/@davehodsdon3533)



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## **Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures**

*As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary  
Year B – Advent; December 24, 2023*

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### **Scriptures**

**2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16**

**Luke 1:46b–55 or Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26**

**Romans 16:25–27**

**Luke 1:26–38**

### **Questions for Reflection**

Mary's song proclaims that God is  
lifting up the lowly while scattering the proud, and  
feeding the hungry while sending the rich away with empty hands.  
How does this change the way you think  
about God's coming reign of justice and favor?  
How does this change the way you live?

### **Morning Prayers:**

Expectant God, Mary sings because  
she has new life in her, the promise of your salvation.  
Fill me with hope this day  
as I lift my life to you and seek to do your will.  
Look with favor on our world and all who are in need,  
that your love may be magnified  
as I follow humbly in your way. Amen.

### **Evening Prayers:**

Lord, as I come to you seeking rest this night,  
I pray that all may find a home in you,  
be disturbed by no one,  
and be free of the afflictions of the evil one,  
for you, O God, are mighty to save. Amen.

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## **Announcements & Notes**

*ANY area where you have an interest & willingness to serve,  
please let us know.*

### **More Calendar Notes**

December 24: 9:30a Wesley Chapel Morning Worship – Advent 4  
11:00a Clarksburg UMC Morning Worship – Advent 4  
7:00p Clarksburg UMC Christmas Eve Worship  
9:00p Wesley Chapel Christmas Eve Worship  
December 31: First Sunday of Christmas – New Years Eve  
Regular worship times at both churches  
January 7: Observing “The Epiphany” (remembering the Wise Men).

***The Christmas Season is December 25, through January 6.  
Keep right on celebrating!***

*If there are other calendar notes, please email the pastor...*

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### **Prayer Concern Notes**

***What NEW thing would you like to see  
the church try to do next year?***