



Sunday, December 17, 2023

Culmore  
United Methodist Church

Welcome and  
Good Morning!

# Welcome and Announcements







Su



Noel's Latest Handiwork

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY



## We Light the Candle of Joy

Today we light the third candle of advent, the candle of Joy.  
God so loved the world that he has sent his only son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**No greater gift has ever been given to the world.**

**Let us rejoice!**

Today we remember Mary, the young mother of our Savior,  
who said *yes* to the angel. Because of her great love for God,  
she faithfully served as she was called, with joy in her heart.

**May we, like Mary, respond with joy when God calls.**





## A Candle is Burning

A candle is burning,  
a candle of JOY,  
A candle to welcome  
brave Mary's new boy  
Our hearts fill with wonder  
and eyes light and glow  
As joy brightens winter  
like sunshine on snow.



# Opening Prayer

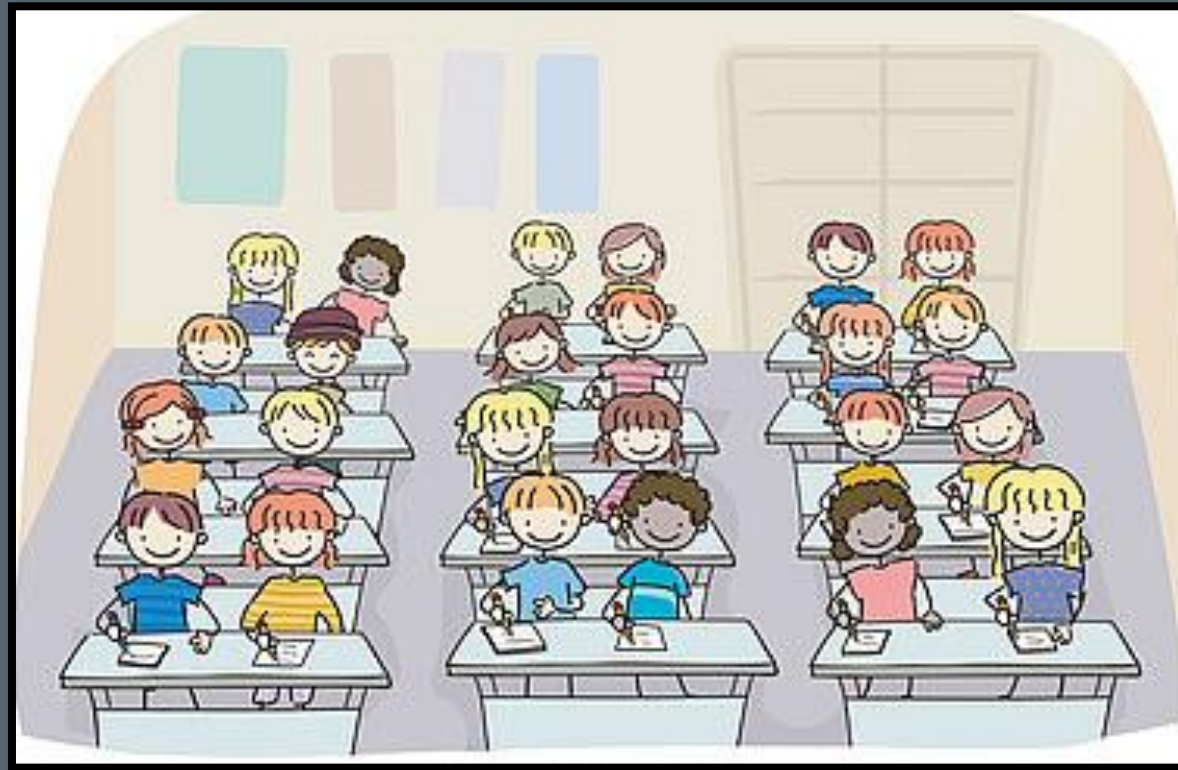
Dear Father of us all,

Our hearts are filled with joy as we celebrate the coming of your son, Christ Jesus, our Savior. This gift of healing love and grace is so precious to us.

In this advent season, may we be filled with hope, faith, love and joy. *Amen.*



# Lessons for the Adults















Joy to the world, the Lord has come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.



He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.



JOY

## Luke 1: 26-37

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The angel went to her and said, “***Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.***”



Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

But the angel said to her, **“Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...”**





**“...The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”**

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel,  
“since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God...”**



**“... Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month...**

**For nothing will be impossible for God.”**





For nothing will be impossible for God.  
—*Luke 1:37*



Walang magiging imposible sa Diyos.

对神来说，没有什么是不可能的。

Nada será imposible para Dios.

하나님에게는 불가능한 일이 없을 것입니다.

Nothing will be impossible for God.

神にとって不可能なことは何也不会。

Tidak ada yang mustahil bagi Tuhan.

Rien ne sera impossible à Dieu.

දෙවියන් වහන්සේට කළ නොහැකි දෙයක් නැත.



**At Christmas, that which we couldn't imagine happened.**

The virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah,  
the savior of the world.

***Jesus Christ*** is the impossible made possible;  
the unimaginable made real.



And thus, with our relationship with Mary's Son, there is *always* hope. None of us have to remain as we are. We can be changed—regardless of what we have been—when we invite Jesus in.

No society has to remain as it is. It can be changed when the Spirit who came upon Mary comes upon our community.

**Nothing is impossible with Jesus.**

*--Darrell Johnson (paraphrased)*

“Here am I the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “Let it be with me according to your word.”







أيقونة زيارة والدة الإله مريم لوالدة المعمدان اليصابات



## Mary's Magnificat: Luke 1: 46-55

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.



From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me.  
Holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.



He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their  
inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones,  
but has lifted up the humble.



He has filled the hungry with good things,  
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful to  
Abraham and his descendants forever,  
even as he said to our fathers.







## Community Prayer



Loving God,

We give thanks for the gift of life and all the blessings You give us every day. You ask us for our trust and faith as we journey through life with You.

Lord, remind us that nothing will be impossible with you, but everything happens according to your schedule, not ours. Help us be patient.

Help us wait on you.

Lord, help us say *yes* when you call, just as Mary did.

When we encounter difficulties, just as Mary did, remind us that You are there. Help us be the people You call us to be, just as Mary did.

What joy will be ours when we live this way. ***Amen.***



# Offering and Doxology

## UM Hymnal 95



We give thanks for this wonderful,  
generous community of faith.



# *O Come All Ye Faithful – UMH 234*







Benediction