ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Bringing People to Christ and Christ to People"

December 7, 2025

9:45 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE (*Please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.*)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WELCOME

These is a hearing assistance system and large print bulletins available. Please see an usher.

A reminder that today is the First Sunday Missions collection during communion

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please rise in body or spirit.)

Leader: In a world often torn by conflict and division,

People: We gather here to seek peace.

Leader: Come, all who are burdened by fear, uncertainty,

and the weight of the world. Jesus speaks to us

today:

People: My peace I give to you.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with your peace.

All: Together, let us open our hearts to the Prince of

Peace. Amen.

*HYMN It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (vs 1, 3, 4) UMH 218

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Reader 1: In a fast and chaotic society with what seems like

a never-ending stream of bad news, it makes sense that many of us find ourselves plagued by anxiety and concerned about the present and future. Advent reminds us that these feelings aren't new. Jesus was born into a time and place of turmoil. He came as a sign of peace and bringer of peace. He continues to offer it. *Light hope and*

peace candles.

People: I'm trading my worry. I'm trading my stress. I'm

laying them down for the peace of the Lord

Reader 2: Hear these words of peace from Jesus from John

14:25-27: "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do

not let them be afraid.

Reader 1: Let's receive the peace of Christ into our hearts.

All: God, we open our hearts to your peace. Thanks

be to Christ, the Prince of Peace.

LIGHTING RESPONSE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 7) UMH 211

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

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

*BLESSING THE OFFERING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing UMH 240

SCRIPTURE Romans 15:4-13

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. ⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God

and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name." ¹⁰Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

MESSAGE "Anxiety for Peace"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we seek peace and calmness and yet they are elusive in many ways. Still, Jesus reminds us that the peace of God is like no other. It cannot be compared to our human concept of peace. God, we open ourselves up to your peace, the peace that Jesus taught us, even as our lives are fraught with challenges. Amen.

*COMMUNION

UMH 13

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord by with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give our thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

And so,

with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.*

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.*

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so,

In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering fur us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.*

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.** The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

HYMN What a Friend

UMH 526

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

May the God of all hope fill you with joy and peace in believing in our Lord Jesus Christ!

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *O Little Town* (vs 2) UMH 230 EXTINGUISHING OF ALTAR CANDLES

POSTLUDE

✓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to Kenny McAllister for his generous donation to have the carpet cleaned.

SOCIAL HOUR today immediately following the service. Hope to see you there!

ADVENT SCRIPTURE STUDY – Continues on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p. m. In-person and via Zoom with transportation available if needed. Please contact Pastor Shannon.

GIFT EXCHANGE DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS - December 7-13

Sunday – John 14:27 Thursday – Isaiah 4:2-6
Monday – Psalm 124 Friday – Luke 12:22-43
Tuesday – Philippians 4:4-7 Saturday – Isaiah 30:19-26
Wednesday – Isaiah 54:1-10

City of Fruitland Police Department **GIVING TREE** – If you would like to make a donation toward the purchase of a gift for a child, please give it to Buddy.

Next Sunday – **CHILDREN'S PROGRAM** with refreshments to follow after the service.

CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS TREE – Please consider placing a card on the tree in the vestibule to wish your St. John's family a Merry Christmas and donating what you would have spent on postage sending cards. Proceeds benefit projects supported by the Missions Team.

Mark your calendars! **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** at 4:30 p.m. on December 24

FIRST BAPTIST FOOD BANK – Requests include stuffing, instant potatoes, canned meats, spaghetti noodles and sauce, baby diapers, cereal, boxed juices and personal hygiene items.

FRUITLAND INTERMEDIATE FOOD BAGS – Individually wrapped packs of cookies are needed. Please bring in your food by December 21. Bags will be packed December 28.

PRAYER CHAIN – Call or text Pat Kern at 443-783-6423

NEWSLETTER – Submit information to Paul Nelson at <u>pnelson37@gmail.com</u> by the 23rd of each month.

SOCIAL HOUR – See Buddy Pennewell or Cathy Grim to help.

Music Director: Mike Nelson
Videographer: Roger Vandegrift
Liturgist: Laverne Gladmon
Advent Candle Readers: The Jenkins Family

St. John's United Methodist Church
312 East Main Street P. O. Box 236
Fruitland, Maryland 21826
410-742-5592
stjohnsfruitland@gmail.com
www.stjohnsfruitland.org
Pastor Shannon Harris
Cell: 410-777-0162

E-mail: pastorslharris@gmail.com