



# Waiting

an advent study

the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight

# Welcome!

Sometimes, all we can do is... wait.

Wait for information.

Wait for restrictions to lift.

Wait for doctors.

Wait for... everything.

And waiting is really hard. It's not always like the joyful waiting of being a kid waiting for Christmas morning (although that has its challenges!). A lot of our everyday waiting is about waiting for hard information or waiting for relief.

So, here we are in Advent gearing up for yet another kind of waiting. In Advent, we take time to remember why we're so excited about Christ being born. It's not about the presents or the family time (even though those are a nice bonus!).

At its core, Advent is about waiting for Christ to come breathe into the nitty-gritty challenges of our lives and into the larger challenges of the whole world. This is when we gather our needs like fallen leaves and bring them to Christ's birth as an offering. So, as we wait, take this time to gather the desires of your heart. Perhaps we share some of the same needs this season. Let's seek our familiar desires together: peace, hope, joy, love, and, of course, Christ. Blessings,

*Rev. Emily Hurd*

# Reading Tips:

1. Pray before you read. Perhaps try something simple: "*God, please open my heart and mind to know you and your will for me.*"
2. The scriptures for each week are printed in full at the back of the booklet. Read them throughout the week, or at the very beginning-whatever suits you best! They correspond to what we have just read in church. So, we will hear scriptures and then study them more deeply.
3. Take advantage of the note sheet included with each week's readings. Rev. Emily's favorite question is "Wait, what?" "*Wait, what!?*" moments are about engaging in what is surprising, new, uncomfortable, or overwhelmingly amazing. We've found that looking for "Wait, what!?" moments helps us to see scripture in a totally new way. Try it out!
4. Let the text speak. If you find a problem, don't try to be God's public relations expert. Let that spark your curiosity. "Why is this here?" "What was the context?" "What does this tell me about God? Myself? My community?"
5. As you read and have questions, you are welcome to email Rev. Emily with your thoughts, questions, wonderings, and especially your "wait, what!?" thoughts!
6. We will be discussing these readings at the Wednesday morning covenant group (8:30 am), the Wednesday evening Bible Study (7:00 pm), and at our Tuesday Get Real discussions (4:30). You are welcome to join any group!

Blessings on your reading!

# Reading Schedule

## for Bible Studies

<i>Wednesday</i> <i>Class</i>	<i>Worship</i> <i>Date</i>	<i>Readings</i>
<b>Nov 17</b>	Nov 28	□ Jeremiah 29: 1; 4-14 Luke 1:5-25 (57-66)
<b>Dec 1</b>	Dec 5	□ Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Luke 1:26-38
<b>Dec 8</b>	Dec 12	□ Isaiah 55: 1-13 Luke 1:39-45
<b>Dec 15</b>	Dec 19	□ John 1:1-18 Luke 1:46-56
	Dec 24	□ Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

# Use this Guide

## Daily Devotion

Each week has its own theme that you'll see throughout the daily devotions. The basic suggested structure for each day will be the same.

*Prayer*

*Reading*

*Daily Practice*

*Prayer of Thanks*

## Weekly Practices

Each day has a practice assigned to encourage you to interact with the weekly theme and scripture in new ways.

Sunday	<i>Worship</i>	Attend church virtually or in person.
Monday	<i>Wonder</i>	Read scripture and be curious about what God is doing.
Tuesday	<i>Engage</i>	Go deep with God! Share your thoughts, hopes, questions.
Wednesday	<i>Practice</i>	Do something to practice the theme of the week.
Thursday	<i>Share</i>	Take this day to share your thoughts with friends and family.
Friday	<i>Practice</i>	Do something to practice the theme of the week.
Saturday	<i>Reflect</i>	Reflect on the week.

Use this as a guide, rather than a rule. You may want to do all the readings in one day and then focus on the daily practice during your daily time. You may wish to spread or shift the weekly practices based on your schedule or interest. Make this work for you!

# Waiting for Peace

November 28-December 4

Weekly Song: Let there be Peace on Earth

*Sometimes we get so caught up in the craziness of the season that we miss the reason for Christmas: our world is a mess! This week, we'll see the ways our world needs peace through what the prophet Jeremiah tells the ancient Israelites when they were scared in exile. Then we'll see how God shows up to Elizabeth and Zechariah long after they give up hope. We may be waiting, but peace is on the horizon.*

## Daily Devotion

### Prayer

*God, you are holy and eternal. While we wait for Christmas, you write the end of the story. Help us, oh God, to wait with your peace. Even as we rush forward and cry for a day when your Kingdom would rule all the earth, help us to do so filled with your peace.*

*Lead me, guide me, show me who you've called me to be.*

*Amen.*

### Reading

Jeremiah 29: 1; 4-14

Luke 1:5-25

### Daily Practice

### Prayer of Thanks

*God, time with you is holy time. Thank you. Help me to carry your peace to all I meet and all I do throughout this day and the next. Amen.*

# Week 1

November 28-December 4

## Day 1

### Worship

Attend church in person or online. Seek God's peace.

## Day 2

### Wonder

- When is it hard to be at peace? When have you felt the most peace in your life?
- What are you waiting for today? Are you waiting with peace? Are you waiting for peace?
- In Jeremiah, the prophet is giving the people bittersweet news. On the one hand, they have a new home to put down roots. On the other, this means they won't be going home any time soon. Have you ever had to start over? Have you sought peace?
- Zechariah was a priest, yet he was still amazed and disbelieving when the angel said he and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby.
- How do you think you would feel as Zechariah? As Elizabeth?

## Day 3

### Engage

Tell God what you discovered and wondered yesterday. Was any of it on your mind later in the day? Ask God your questions. Praise God for your times of peace. Ask God to renew your peace, again. Write your own prayers today!

# Week 1

November 28-December 4

## Day 4

### *Practice*

Throughout the day, notice your feelings. Do you feel God's peace? What do you think peace feels like? What does it feel like to be without peace?

## Day 5

### *Share*

Now that you have wondered, prayed, and practiced, share your stories of peace with your loved ones. Ask about times they have felt or not felt peace. Ask what they think of faith and peace.

## Day 6

### *Practice*

Throughout the day, notice your feelings. Do you feel God's peace? Practice asking God to fill you with peace.

## Day 7

### *Reflect*

What was it like to spend a week thinking about God's peace? What surprised you? What made you curious? What else did you feel?





# Week 1

Notes

# Waiting in Hope

December 5-11

Weekly Song: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Sometimes we get so caught up in the craziness of the season that we miss the reason for Christmas: our world is a mess! This week we'll see the ways our world needs hope as we join the prophet Ezekiel in seeing just how far God will go to reanimate our passion for life. Then, we'll see the amazing night Mary is visited by an angel. We may be waiting, but hope is coming.*

Prayer

## Daily Devotion

*God-you are the giver of life. You promise us that there is no situation so hopeless that you can't breathe new life into it. Help us to be filled with hope and confidence in how you will renew the world. Help us to join you in reigniting hope in our world. Lead me, guide me, show me who you've called me to be. Amen.*

Reading

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Luke 1:26-38

Daily Practice

Prayer of Thanks

*God, time with you is holy time. Thank you. Help me to carry your hope to all I meet and all I do throughout this day and the next. Amen.*

# Week 2

December 5-11

## Day 1

### Worship

Attend church in person or online. Seek God's peace.

## Day 2

### Wonder

- When is it hard to have hope?
- When have you felt most hopeful in your life?
- Have you ever felt like you were just dry bones? In the midst of the pandemic, it is easy to feel dried up, cut off, and lost. How do you stay connected to God and other people?
- In Mary's story, she is suddenly filled with a pregnancy that could get her killed, yet she responds "Let it be with me just as you have said." How do you think she felt? Do you think she had hope?

## Day 3

### Engage

Tell God what you discovered and wondered yesterday. Was any of it on your mind later in the day? Ask God your questions. Praise God for your times of hope: fulfilled and unrequited. Ask God to give you a new hope.

# Week 2

December 5-11

## Day 4

### *Practice*

Throughout the day, notice your feelings. Do you feel hopeful? What prevents you from feeling hope? What gives you hope?

## Day 5

### *Talk to loved ones*

Now that you have wondered, prayed, and practiced, share your stories of hope with your loved ones. Ask about times they have felt or not felt hopeful. Ask what they think of faith and hope.

## Day 6

### *Practice*

Throughout the day, notice your feelings. Do you feel hopeful? Practice asking God to fill you with hope.

## Day 7

### *Reflect*

What was it like to spend a week thinking about God's hope? What surprised you? What made you curious? What else did you feel?



# Week 2

Notes

# Joyful Waiting

December 12-18

Weekly Song: Joy to the World!

*Sometimes we get so caught up in the craziness of the season that we miss the reason for Christmas: our world is a mess! This week we'll see the ways our world seeks joy in unsatisfying places and God's counteroffer for a true joy that never runs out. We may be waiting, but joy is coming.*

## Daily Devotion

### Prayer

*Creator God, sometimes this season is filled with joy. Other times it's filled with stress, obligation, loneliness... Help us to seek the joy that can only come from you this season. Lead me, guide me, show me who you've called me to be. Amen.*

### Reading

Isaiah 55: 1-13

Luke 1:39-45

### Daily Practice

### Prayer of Thanks

*God, time with you is holy time. Thank you. Help me to carry your holy, uncontainable joy to all I meet and all I do throughout this day and the next. Amen.*

# Week 3

December 12-18

## Day 1

### Worship

Attend church in person or online. Seek God's peace.

## Day 2

### Wonder

- When is it hard to feel joy? What is the difference between joy and happiness?
- When have you felt most joyful in your life?
- When you read Isaiah 55, what feelings stick out to you first? Do you see joy? What context are they feeling joy in?
- In our Mark reading, Mary has been pregnant long enough to travel to her cousin's home. Both women seem filled with joy! Pregnancy can be a terrifying and joyful time. When have you been overcome with joy for someone else? For yourself? In response to God's work?

## Day 3

### Engage

Tell God what you discovered and wondered yesterday. Was any of it on your mind later in the day? Ask God your questions. Praise God for your times of true joy. Ask God to give you a repeating joy!

# Week 3

December 12-18

## Day 4

### *Practice*

Throughout the day, notice your feelings. Do you feel joyful? What prevents you from joy? What gives you joy?

## Day 5

### *Talk to loved ones*

Now that you have wondered, prayed, and practiced, share your stories of joy with your loved ones. Ask about times they have felt or not felt joyful. Ask what they think of faith and joy.

## Day 6

### *Practice*

Throughout the day, notice your feelings. Do you feel joyful? Practice asking God to fill you with joy.

## Day 7

### *Reflect*

What was it like to spend a week thinking about God's joy? What surprised you? What made you curious? What else did you feel?





# Week 3

Notes

# Waiting with Love

December 19-25

Weekly Song: O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Sometimes we get so caught up in the craziness of the season that we miss the reason for Christmas: our world is a mess! In worship today, we'll see how God lives love through offering God's Self as Jesus. We may be waiting, but love is alive!*

## Daily Devotion

### Prayer

*Dear God, this week is stressful. Help me to remain focused on the reason we've waited for Christmas. Help me to be filled with love for you and for others. Help me to feel your eternal love for me. Loving God, you created us to be more than shoppers and gift-givers. Help us to know you.*

*Lead me, guide me, show me who you've called me to be.  
Amen.*

### Reading

*John 1:1-18*

*Luke 1:46-56*

### Daily Practice

### Prayer of Thanks

*God, time with you is holy time. Thank you. Help me to carry your all consuming love to all I meet and all I do throughout this day and the next. Amen.*

# Week 4

December 19-25

## Day 1

### Worship

Attend church in person or online. Seek God's peace.

## Day 2

### Wonder

- When is it hard to feel love?
- When have you felt most loving in your life?
- When have you most craved love?
- On the surface, this John passage is just about light. However, scripture is also about what is behind the text. Where do you see love under the surface of this text?
- Our Luke passage is Mary's famous song. It is known for its "Holy Reversals." Where do you see reversals? Do these seem like love to you? Why or why not?

## Day 3

### Engage

Tell God what you discovered and wondered yesterday. Was any of it on your mind later in the day? Ask God your questions. Praise God for your times of hope: fulfilled and unrequited. Ask God to give you deep love and thank God for loving you.

# Week 4

December 19-25

## Day 4

### *Practice*

Throughout the day, notice your feelings. Do you feel God's love? Do you feel love for others? What prevents you from feeling love for all? What leads you to loving someone?

## Day 5

### *Talk to loved ones*

Now that you have wondered, prayed, and practiced, share your stories of love with your loved ones. Ask about times they have felt or not felt loved or loving. Ask what they think of faith and love.

## Day 6

### *Practice*

Throughout the day, notice your feelings. Do you feel loving? Do you feel loved? Practice asking God to fill you with love from others and for others. Does Christmas Eve feel different this year?

## Day 7

### *Reflect*

Merry Christmas! What was it like to spend a week thinking about God's love? What surprised you? What made you curious? What else did you feel? What did you learn or experience through waiting for Christ's birth?



# Week 4

Notes

# Week 1

## JEREMIAH 29:1-14 (CEB)

29 The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter from Jerusalem to the few surviving elders among the exiles, to the priests and the prophets, and to all the people Nebuchadnezzar had taken to Babylon from Jerusalem. 2 The letter was sent after King Jeconiah, the queen mother, the court officials, the government leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, and the craftsmen and smiths had left Jerusalem. 3 It was delivered to Babylon by Elasah, Shaphan's son, and Gemariah, Hilkiah's son—two men dispatched to Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar by King Zedekiah.

4 The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims to all the exiles I have carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and settle down; cultivate gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Get married and have children; then help your sons find wives and your daughters find husbands in order that they too may have children. Increase in number there so that you don't dwindle away. 7 Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare.

8 The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims: Don't let the prophets and diviners in your midst mislead you. Don't pay attention to your dreams. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I didn't send them, declares the Lord.

10 The Lord proclaims: When Babylon's seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. 11 I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. 12 When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. 13 When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. 14 I will be present for you, declares the Lord, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile,[a] declares the Lord.

# Week 1

## LUKE 1:5-20 (CEB)

5 During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. 6 They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. 7 They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. 8 One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty. 9 Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense. 10 All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering. 11 An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.

13 The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. 16 He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God. 17 He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are very old."

19 The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in God's presence. I was sent to speak to you and to bring this good news to you. 20 Know this: What I have spoken will come true at the proper time. But because you didn't believe, you will remain silent, unable to speak until the day when these things happen."

# Week 1

## LUKE 1:57-66 (CEB)

57 When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. 58 Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. 59 On the eighth day, it came time to circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father's name. 60 But his mother replied, "No, his name will be John."

61 They said to her, "None of your relatives have that name." 62 Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him.

63 After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, "His name is John." 64 At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God.

65 All their neighbors were filled with awe, and everyone throughout the Judean highlands talked about what had happened. 66 All who heard about this considered it carefully. They said, "What then will this child be?" Indeed, the Lord's power was with him.



# Week 2

## LUKE 1:26-38 (CEB)

26 When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, 27 to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" 29 She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. 31 Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. 33 He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. 36 Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. 37 Nothing is impossible for God."

38 Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

# Week 2

## EZEKIEL 37:1-14 (CEB)

37 The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. 2 He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

3 He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?"

I said, "Lord God, only you know."

4 He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord's word! 5 The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. 6 I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord."

7 I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. 8 When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

9 He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live."

10 I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

11 He said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.' 12 So now, prophecy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I'm opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel's fertile land. 13 You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. 14 I will put my breath[a] in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I've spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says."

# Week 3

## LUKE 1:39-45 (CEB)

39 Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. 40 She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. 43 Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. 45 Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

# Week 3

## ISAIAH 55 (CEB)

55 All of you who are thirsty, come to the water!

Whoever has no money, come, buy food and eat! Without money, at no cost, buy wine and milk! 2 Why spend money for what isn't food, and your earnings for what doesn't satisfy? Listen carefully to me and eat what is good; enjoy the richest of feasts. 3 Listen and come to me; listen, and you will live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful loyalty to David.

4 Look, I made him a witness to the peoples, a prince and commander of peoples.

5 Look, you will call a nation you don't know, a nation you don't know will run to you because of the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, who has glorified you.

6 Seek the Lord when he can still be found; call him while he is yet near.

7 Let the wicked abandon their ways and the sinful their schemes.

Let them return to the Lord so that he may have mercy on them, to our God, because he is generous with forgiveness.

8 My plans aren't your plans, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

9 Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans. 10 Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and don't return there without watering the earth, making it conceive and yield plants and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater,

11 so is my word that comes from my mouth; it does not return to me empty. Instead, it does what I want and accomplishes what I intend.

12 Yes, you will go out with celebration, and you will be brought back in peace.

Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you; all the trees of the field will clap their hands. 13 In place of the thorn the cypress will grow; in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow. This will attest to the Lord's stature, an enduring reminder that won't be removed

# Week 4

## LUKE 1:46-56 (CEB)

46 Mary said,

“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

47 In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

48 He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored

49 because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

50 He shows mercy to everyone,  
from one generation to the next,  
who honors him as God.

51 He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

52 He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

54 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
remembering his mercy,

55 just as he promised to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.”

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

# Week 4

## JOHN 1:1-18 (CEB)

1 In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

2 The Word was with God in the beginning.

3 Everything came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word  
nothing came into being.

What came into being

4 through the Word was life,[a]  
and the life was the light for all people.

5 The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

6 A man named John was sent from God. 7 He came as a witness to  
testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe  
in the light. 8 He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify  
concerning the light.

9 The true light that shines on all people  
was coming into the world.

10 The light was in the world,  
and the world came into being through the light,  
but the world didn't recognize the light.

11 The light came to his own people,  
and his own people didn't welcome him.

12 But those who did welcome him,  
those who believed in his name,  
he authorized to become God's children,

# Week 4

13 born not from blood  
nor from human desire or passion,  
but born from God.

14 The Word became flesh  
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,  
glory like that of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

15 John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said,  
'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before  
me.'"

16 From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;  
17 as the Law was given through Moses,  
so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God.

God the only Son,  
who is at the Father's side,  
has made God known.

# Christmas Eve

## LUKE 2:1-14 (CEB)

2 In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. 2 This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. 3 Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. 4 Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. 5 He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. 6 While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. 7 She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

8 Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. 9 The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. 11 Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. 12 This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, 14 "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

15 When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." 16 They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. 18 Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. 20 The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.





# Extra Notes

# Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Family Worship

7:30 pm Traditional Candlelight  
Worship

# Blue Christmas

7:30 pm December 20th  
*"Christmas when you feel blue"*

# Sunday Service

9:30 am In-person Worship

7:00 pm Oxygen Worship  
*(on YouTube and Facebook)*



(Scan with your  
cell phone camera  
for YouTube)

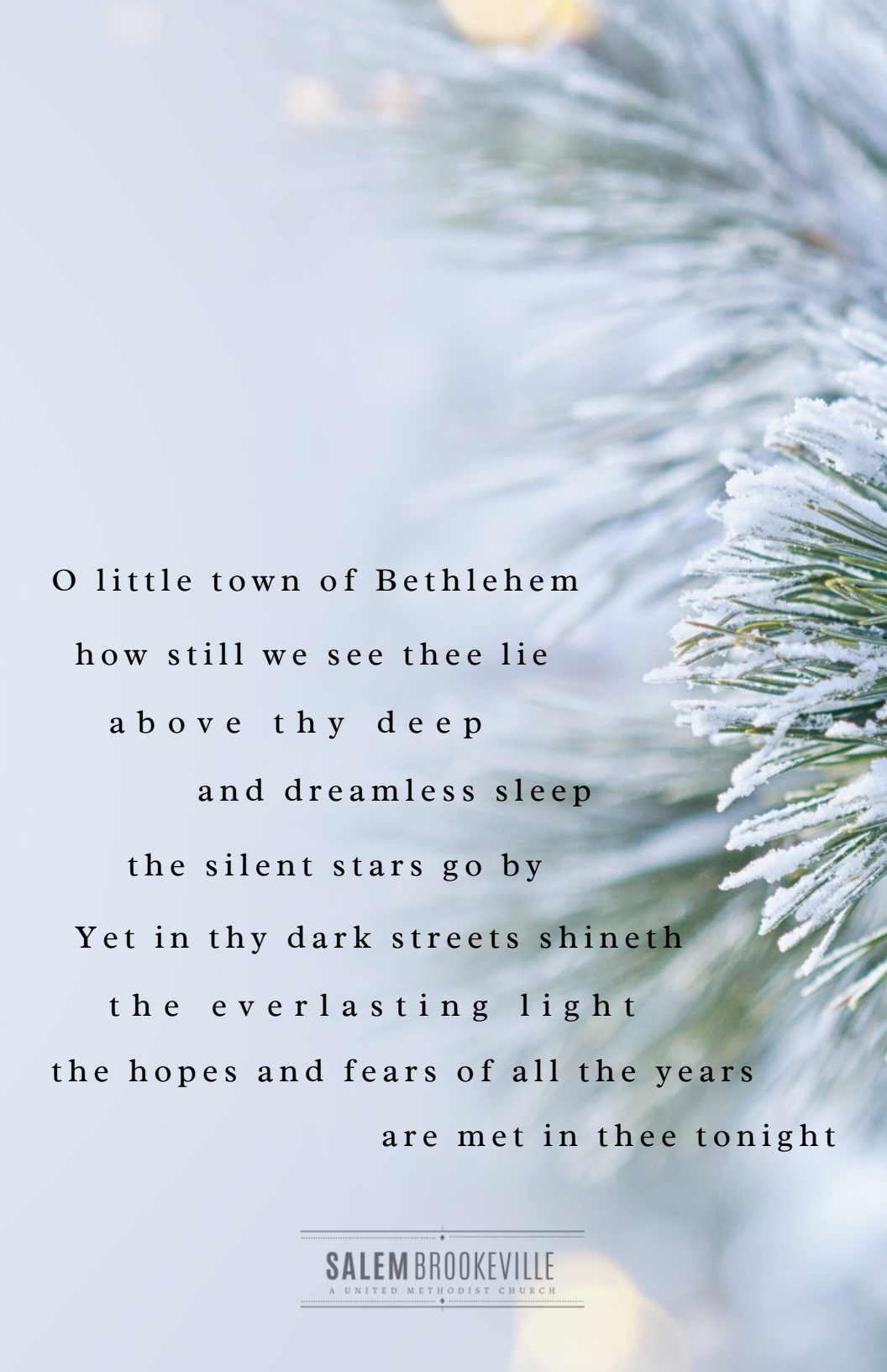
Salem United Methodist Church  
12 High Street  
Brookeville, MD 20833

The background features a soft, warm-toned bokeh effect with numerous out-of-focus light spots in shades of yellow and orange. In the upper right corner, there is a burst of bright, golden-yellow fireworks or light trails radiating outwards.

COME

*see*

starting January 2022



O little town of Bethlehem  
how still we see thee lie  
above thy deep  
and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight