



DECEMBER 18, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

PRELUDE & CARRYING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD

GATHERING HYMN* *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* No. 124

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Out of the busyness of our worlds,

People: Out of the difficulty of life-as-usual, with its losses, disappointments and set backs,

Leader: Out of the darkness, we have seen a great light.

People: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness: On them has light shined.

Leader: The birth of a baby calls us to remember that life – no matter how hard – is something special, a gift to be shared with honesty and hope.

All: On this night, may the message of God's love coming into the world of our experience, as a vulnerable, needy child, help us find the grace and peace promised in this season.

LITURGY OF REMEMBERING (Lighting the Advent Candles)

Leader: This first candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices, the memories that bind them to us in this season. (Lighting of the first candle)

INVITATION TO LIGHT CANDLES

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

BEAVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Organized 1809 www.beaverucc.org 937-426-5602
1960 Dayton-Xenia Road, Beavercreek, Ohio 45434

Pastor: Rev. Brian Eastman

Choir Director: Karen Barger Organist: Donna Larsen

*All who are comfortable, please stand.

All: *May God's eternal love surround them.*

Leader: This second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we might receive the gift of peace. (Lighting of the second candle)

All: *Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.*

Leader: This third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and months; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who have stood with us. We give thanks for all the support we have known. (Lighting of the third candle)

All: *Help us remember that dawn defeats darkness.*

Leader: This fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope that the Christmas story offers. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time when pain and suffering will cease and life will overcome death, tears and wars, hunger and violence will be no more, and justice and peace will reign among all the peoples of the earth. (Lighting of the fourth candle)

All: *Let us remember the coming one, who came to us fragile and vulnerable as a child, yet grew to show us the way to a full and purposeful life as children of God, the one, who brings*

ORDER OF SCRIPTURES AND LIGHTING CANDLES

Leader: Isaiah 40: 1 – 5, 28 – 31 (Lighting a candle)

All: **Spirit of God, calm the turmoil in our souls so that we can hear your voice, and know the comfort of being lifted by your strength and care. Amen.**

Leader: Psalm 22: 1 – 11 (Lighting a candle)

All: **Spirit of God, shine like this candle in the darkness, lighting the way for all who feel abandoned, forsaken and forgotten. Amen.**

Leader: Luke 2: 1 – 7 (Lighting a candle)

All: **God-with-us, let those who are far from home, and those who feel like strangers in a strange place, know and feel that there is a place for everyone with you and your people. Amen.**

Leader: Luke 6: 17 – 23 (Lighting a candle)

All: **Loving, Gentle Jesus, with this candle bring warmth and light to those who hunger, and thirst, and weep. Amen.**

Leader: John 11: 17 – 21, 28 – 36 (Lighting a candle)

All: **God-in-Christ, you know what it is like to experience limitations, pain and death. Be with us and with those we love when suffering comes. Bring us in time to your healing and hope. Amen.**

Leader: Matthew 11: 28 – 29 (Lighting a candle)

All: **Jesus our friend, because you carry the yoke with us, our burdens are bearable and we can carry on; in you we find our rest. Amen.**

Leader: Revelation 21: 1 – 5a (Lighting a candle)

All: **Creative, amazing God, the vision of a world without tears, a new creation, seems far from the reality of our lives. Bring your promise closer to us in this holy season. We await your coming with deep longing and holy joy. Amen.**