

SUNDAY WORSHIP
December 15, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pastor: Jaime Torres
Ringing of Outdoor Bell @ 10:00 AM

Liturgist: Martha Gentry
Reader: Marcia Heerema

***Candle Lighting Liturgy**

Reader One, Susan Johnson: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God’s coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God’s salvation has come and is coming. “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God’s salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: **Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God’s love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

Reader Two, Heather Nielsen: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God’s salvation together.

***Gathering Hymn: “Lord I Lift your name on High” Pastor**

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity’s greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

All: What, then, should we do?

Liturgist: Our world is also full of the fruit of God’s love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God.

All: What, then, should we do?

Liturgist: God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel. What then, children of God, should you do?

All: We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, and mercy. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession All:**

Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.

***Liturgist:** Passing the Peace: May the peace of Christ be with you

People: And, with you! (Please be brief as you pass the peace of Christ and greet one another.)

***Liturgist: *Prayer before the Offering** God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Empower us to live fully present, giving generously and acting justly. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to your kin-dom. Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. (Luke 3:7-18)

***Offertory** Song / Music

Joy Asenas

***Prayers, Concerns and Celebrations of the week**

Pastor: The Lord’s Prayer

UMH# 895

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***Preparation Hymn**

“The First Noel ” UMH #245

***Scripture Readings**

Old Testament – Martha Gentry **Isaiah 12:2-6**

New Testament – Marcia Heerema **Luke 3:7-18, Philippians 4:4-7**

***Message “Presence”**

By Pastor Jaime Torres

***Hymn of Commitment**

“ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ” UMH # 240

***Prayer for Going Forth Liturgist and People:** Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. In Jesus' name. Amen. (J. Wesley, England, 18th Century).

Liturgist Announcements: Mondays Music class 5:00p.m. at One Step; Coffee House meets Fridays at Starbucks 11:00a.m.; Pastoral visits Thursdays and Fridays; Food Share Dec 21; Children’s Pageant December 22; Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve; Cristina will be on vacation Dec 20 through Jan 05

***Blessings for the people** (Pastor)

Advent invites each of us into a new way of living in a world to which the kin-dom of God has come and is yet coming. Go, now, blessed with the gift of togetherness, for it is only in being truly present with God and one another that we live as followers of the coming Messiah. Amen.

***Closing song** May the God of Peace be with you, holding you in strong fingered hands, and may you be an instrument of God's peace, to those whose hands you hold, and may the blessings of peace, be with you, be with you, be with you. (Means to stand as you are able: in body or in spirit.)

OUR APPRECIATION TO:

Pastor
Liturgist
Reader
Greeters
Pianist
Hand Bell Choir Director
Adult Education Director
Lay Leader
Videographer
Office Admin

Jaime Torres
Martha Gentry
Marcia Heerema
You
Joy Asenas
Marcia Heerema
Laura Shaw
Susan Johnson
Eric Nelson
Cristina Ramos

Upcoming Events

Bible and Book Studies

“Disciple 1” Bible Study
Monday’s 10:00 – 12:00 Noon
Laura Shaw facilitating on ZOOM

“Out Of Egypt”
Completed

Our Mission

Bardsdale United Methodist Church is a loving, caring,
Christ centered church,
growing in relationship with God, ourselves, and all others.

Our Vision

With God’s help we will
Foster personal growth,
Promote participation by all ages,
Embrace new ideas, and
Be more visible and engaged in our community.

December Birthdays

1st Jennifer Hurd
9th Carolyn Diaz
27th Jim LeBard
28th Erick Torres

BARDSDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Welcome to Third Advent Sunday Service
December 15, 2024

Rev. Jaime Torres M. Div.~ phone: (562) 445-5659 universaljcl@gmail.com



OPEN HEARTS * OPEN MINDS * OPEN DOORS

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Gaudete Sunday holds a special place in many congregations with a gathering full of music, joy, and light as we get closer and closer to the darkest night of the year.

Bishop – Rev. Dr. *Dottie Escobedo-Frank*

North District DS – Rev. *Garth Gilliam*