

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**December 22, 2024**  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

**Liturgist: Carolyn Diaz**  
**Reader: Judi Hartshorn**

**\*Candle Lighting Liturgy**

**Reader One, Dan Michel:** When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O [fill in name of church or community], from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**Congregation:** God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

**Reader Two, Joanna Michel:** We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

**\*Gathering Hymn: “Joy to the World” Pastor**

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

**All: We wait as people of God’s promise.**

Liturgist: The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary’s womb call to us today.

**All: We listen as people of God’s promise.**

Liturgist: Mary’s “yes” and Elizabeth’s faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God’s good news into the world.

**All: We follow as people of God’s promise.**

Liturgist: This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

**All: God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

**\*Prayer of Confession All:** Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us, yet we do not trust you. You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things and yet we still do not trust you. Forgive us and help us to trust in the promises you have given us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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 grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kin-dom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. ([Luke 1:26-38](#))

**\*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** “ Silent night, Holy Night ” **UMH # 239**

**\*Scripture Readings**  
**Old Testament** – Carolyn Diaz **Micah 5:2-5a**  
**New Testament** – Judi Hartshorn **Luke 1:39-45 Psalm 80 1-7**

**\*Message “Presence”** *By Pastor Jaime Torres*

**\*Hymn of Commitment** “ Go, Tell It on the Mountain ” **UMH # 251**

**\*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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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; Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve; Cristina will be on vacation Dec 20 through Jan 05

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

Go, now, in the blessing of God’s promise and in the assurance that our expectant joy will find its fulfillment in the God who was, who is, and who will be with us always. 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  
Carolyn Diaz  
Judi Hartshorn  
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

**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**

1<sup>st</sup> Jennifer Hurd  
9<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Diaz  
27<sup>th</sup> Jim LeBard  
28<sup>th</sup> Erick Torres

**Prayers**

Shawn Morris, Martha Quiroz, Mark Gentry, Josh Trapasso (recovery).  
Tarvel mercies for all who are travelling.

**BARDSDALE**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Welcome to Fourth Advent Sunday Service  
December 22, 2024

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



**OPEN HEARTS \* OPEN MINDS \* OPEN DOORS**

Church office Hours  
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**Merry Christmas Bardsdale UMC**

*On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we receive promise with the hope of fruition—not hope as a wish  
but hope actively moving toward fulfillment.*

Bishop – Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank

North District DS – Rev. Garth Gilliam