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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOMBARD AND VILLA PARK

3rd Sunday of Advent



DECEMBER 14TH, 2025
10AM



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Centering Song

Christmas Waltz

* Call To Worship

One: Moses said, "I cannot speak. My tongue is tied. How can I lead?"

All: Still, God calls us to speak.

One: Mary said, "I'm afraid.... How can this be?"

All: Still, God invites us to trust.

One: Ready or not, God's invitation is here today.

All: Still, God calls us to speak. May we speak words of trusting joy.

May we learn how to lead even if our voices shake.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs. Yes, even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder that joy insists on hope. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. *[light candle.]* **Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.**

* Opening Prayer

Joyful and patient God, you break into our Advent busyness with your extravagant promise of glory and joy. Fire up our imaginations with holy trust in you. Inspire us with a hope that sees beyond past glories and delights in the joy of this moment. Open our eyes to see your compassion already at work. Open our ears to the good news that you are near. Make us signs of your everlasting joy for a world in need. We pray in the name of Jesus who is God-with-us. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

224(Blue)

* You are invited to rise in body or spirit!

Children's Time

Chris Smith Kozlowski, *Dir. of Children's Min.*
Children's church is available after the children's time!

The Word in Music

What Child Is This?

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-39

Sermon

Rev. Michael Mann

OUR RESPONSE

Prayers of the People

Share a prayer concern on one of our prayer cards!



Invitation to Generosity

<https://fumclombardandvillapark.flocknote.com/give/>

Offertory It Came Upon The Midnight Clear, vs. 1-2 218(Blue)

Doxology* O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Gracious God of deep joy, in this season, you call us to look for the small places where healing, hope, and grace breaks in. Today, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the lowly are being lifted up. Use these offerings to bring hope to those who are waiting for your light to shine. In the name of Jesus, our coming savior, we pray. Amen.

* Hymn of Celebration

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

2151 (Black)

* Charge & Benediction

May God who makes the desert bloom, Jesus who brings good news of God's great joy, and the communion of the Holy Spirit who gives us power to speak, even when our voice shakes, may that God go with you as you walk the Holy Way of Advent. Go and share God's joy with all you meet. **Amen. We go to share in God's joy and peace!**