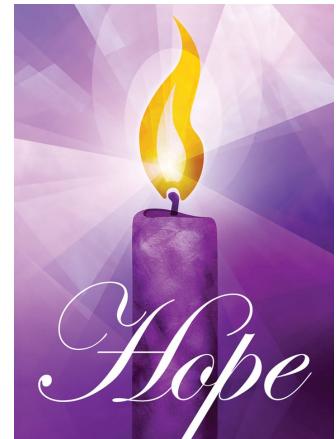


**Highland Avenue  
United Methodist Church**  
4th Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025  
9:30 a.m.

*GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD*

Words of Welcome

The Prelude “**Ave Maria**” arr: Ralph Cheney



The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: **Hope**

Advent Prayer

**Dear God,**

**As we take our Advent pilgrimage,  
grant us the courage to hope.**

**Hope for your presence,**

**Hope for your peace,**

**Hope for your promise. Amen.**

**“Light the Advent Candle” TFWS # 2090 (vs. 4)**

The Call to Worship: (*By Karin Ellis, adapted*)

It is a [gift] to enter the house of the Lord!

**Here we lay aside our differences and pray for one another.**

Here we catch a glimpse of light, a promise of hope and new life.

**Here we wait for the birth of the one who will teach us how to love and serve.**

It is a [gift] to enter the house of the Lord!

Come! Let us worship.

\*The Opening Hymn: “**Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming**” UMH #216

Opening Prayer (*insert*)

*LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD*

The Scripture Lessons: **Isaiah 2: 1-5**

**Matthew 24: 36-44**

A Time for Children “**What Do You Hope For**”

*(Continued on the back)*

## The Message: “Hope of Heaven”

### Meditation in Music “Waiting for the Christ Child”

Composer: Ralph Cheney Lyrics: Sandy Nisbet

### A Time of Prayer

Celebrations and Concerns  
Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer  
The Lord’s Prayer      **UMH # 895**

### *RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD*

### The Offering

\*Doxology    **UMH # 95**  
\*The Prayer of Dedication (*insert*)

\*The Closing Hymn: “**Blessed Be the God of Israel”    UMH # 209**

Benediction, Announcements and Prayer

Postlude “**Ding Dong Merrily on High”**



### *Please pray for:*

Harold Aziz  
Trisha Aziz  
Tom Bailey  
Geneva and Norman Beckwith  
Michael Breed  
Cathy Brissette  
Russell Brown  
Kendal Buck  
Cameron (Ralph’s grandson)  
Gretchen Clark  
**Dwight Cooper**  
Betty Crocker  
Karen Crommett  
Danielle  
Barbara Dill  
Donna & Mike DiTaranto

Crystal Farris  
Armand Fournier  
Harold and Lynn Gerard  
Todd Goode  
Connie Greenleaf  
Kay Gregory  
Russell Hickey  
Nancy Holmes  
**Family of Darrell Huff**  
Vicky Kelley  
**Ray Ladd**  
Michael LaPlante  
Ann LeClair  
Kevin Lee  
Cathy & Mark Leonard  
Emily Long’s gram  
Lois, sister-in-law of Pat O’Connor  
Jerry Lucas  
Steve McNelly

Judy Meserve’s cousins  
Jim Meserve  
Kathy Meserve  
Ellen Minotty  
Tony Morgan  
Pat O’Connor  
Dennis O’Driscoll  
Olivia & Jed  
Silvia Palmer  
Linda Pare  
Carla Parsons  
Peggy Philips  
Jessie Powell  
Sylvia Quint  
Judy Quintal  
Alton Ranks  
Tanya Russell  
Sherman Family  
Sandy Smith  
Sullivan Smith  
Flo Sutter

Laverne & Tim Tardiff  
**Patsy Tessier**  
Randy and Lisa Thibeau  
Rick Thombs  
Tracy Trott  
Samantha Dunn Walker  
Lorna Ulmer’s brothers  
Jane Weir  
Jonathan Williams  
Bert Winslow  
Irene Wise

**People of the Middle East**  
**The Military**  
**Border Concerns**  
**People of Ukraine**  
**Victims of Violence**  
**Victims of Natural Disasters**