

A Celebration of Worship

December 22, 2024

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

P: We wait as people of God’s promise.

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

P: We listen as people of God’s promise.

L: 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.

P: We follow as people of God’s promise.

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

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

*OPENING HYMN

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem ”

UMH #179

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Reader 1: 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 Topeka, 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 2: 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.

Serving Today

Liturgist: Valinda Hailey

Advent Candle Lighter/Readers: Pam Trimble & Donna Larrison

Fellowship: Claire & Dave Roth

Staff

Pastor: Kevin Rea

Office Assistant: Caroline Rea

Organist: Jim O’Konski

Flute: Nancy Ott

Lay Leader: Valinda Hailey

Contact Information

Pastor’s email: krea@greatplainsumc.org

Office Phone: 785-232-3333

Office Email: graceumc27@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tues. 11-4, Thurs. 11-3, Fri. 11-4

**Please Stand*

****Hearing Assist Units** are available from an usher.

***** Children** are always welcome to stay in worship. Activity bags are available for them to use. They are hanging on a rack outside the sanctuary.

Connection Card

Welcome to Topeka Grace UMC!

We are so glad you are here. Please take a moment to complete this card in its entirety and place it in the offering plate.

December 22, 2024

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email @gmail.com @yahoo.com @cox.net

☐ Please update my contact info.

☐ Add me to the church email list.

Attending with me today:

I am a: ☐ Out of town Guest

☐ First time Guest ☐ Frequent Guest

☐ Second time Guest ☐ Member

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

Please:

☐ Share with Prayer Team

☐ Keep confidential (Pastor only)

This person is:

☐ Family ☐ Friend ☐ Member

☐ Self ☐ Co-worker ☐ Other

My name:

Date:

Contact Info.:

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 23

12:00 pm AA - #3

7:30 pm NA - #3

Tuesday, December 24

5:30 pm AA - #3

5:30 pm Christmas Music & Meditation - Crestview UMC

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - Crestview UMC

Wednesday, December 25

5:30 pm AA - Parlor

Thursday, December 26

5:45 pm Women AA - #3

6:00 pm TOPS—Parlor

Friday, December 27

6:30 pm NA—#3

Sunday, December 29

Worship

