

P: Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us to be people of joy in this darkened world.

L: We light the first, second, and third candles of hope, peace, and joy!

Hymn Response *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 3) UMH 211

Unison Prayer

Lord of impending Light, we rejoice in your compassion for us. You send us your light and your healing love so that we may become better representatives of you in this world which cries for justice and peace. Be with us this morning as we gather to hear your word for us. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UMH 213

Message of Joy “What Christmas Means to Me This Year” Char Vas

Special Music *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Doug Young (2013)
Guitarist: Andy Walsh

Prayers of the People

Prayer Concerns (*back of bulletin*)

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

The Offering with Prayer

Please continue to be faithful with your financial gifts by sending your stewardship contribution to the church office to the attention of the Financial Secretary, Ed Brewster.

Gospel Reading John 1:6-8, 19-28

Hymn *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed* UMH 203
(vv. 1, 3, 4)

Vocalist: Gabriela Martinez; Pianist: Javier Gonzalez

Sermon “The Light of Love Is Coming!” Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

Hymn *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH 206
Vocalist: Gabriela Martinez; Pianist: Javier Gonzalez

Benediction

L: Go forth with the light of Christ!

P: We go forth shining with hope, peace, and joy!

L: Go with the assurance of Gods guiding presence.

P: We go in faith to share the good news of Jesus to be born again! Amen.

Postlude *From Heaven to Earth I Come* J.S. Bach
Marlene Dirksen

Our Guiding Principles

- We appreciate and invest in our youth.
- We actively serve our neighbors in the North Olmsted community and the wider world.
- We provide varied opportunities for people to grow in their faith.
- We welcome and nurture a diverse congregation who become extended family.
- We foster lasting personal relationships, which are especially important in a digital world.

Our Faithful Journey

