

Prayer Concerns

First Responders	Josh O.
Victims of natural disasters	Ron W.
Those suffering from mental illness	Barbara B. Nancy D.
Those affected by gun violence	Lois D.
Those who are homeless	Keith A.
Those experiencing addiction	Sally S.
Carole B.	Donna, sister of Carol N.
Terry, lifted by Claudia & Paul T. Barb and Ray S.	Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Justin, lifted by Vann P.	Steve, lifted by
Judy, lifted by Brenda F.	Mary Ellen M.
Deb, friend of Claudia & Paul T.	Matthew F., USAF
Kathy, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.	Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC
Bill, Sarah J.'s brother	Christopher Y., USAF
Judy F.	

This Week's Birthdays

December 11	Barb Schurr	December 16	Phoebe Tidmore
December 13	Ray Plogger	December 17	Kristi Jackson
December 15	Floyd Andrews	December 17	Barb Clough

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm
Organist: Marlene Dirksen
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
Liturgist: John Vas
Greeters: Jean Scothon, Greg Lavelle
Usher: Beth Cruz
Audio Video Elements: John and Michelle Wolter, Phil Wolter

**North Olmsted
United Methodist Church**



Feeding the Community –
Body, Mind, and Spirit
4600 Dover Center Road,
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
440-779-6634 + www.noumc.org
Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm, Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2022 + 10:30 am

Welcome and Greeting

L: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
P: And also with you.

Celebration of Ministries and Missions

Prelude O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Robert Lau

***Call to Worship** John Vas

L: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10 NRSV).

P: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace

and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

L: The Psalmist says, "Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 146 NRSV).

P: **We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.**

***First Gospel Reading** Luke 1:46b-55 (Mary's Song of Praise)

***Unison Prayer**

O Lord, you know the deserts and the parched places in our lives. We seek your healing power. Lead us on this Advent journey to the place of new birth, and to the place of our redemption and joy; for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Prayers of the People

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another,

not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God! It is poured out for you and for God's beloved world. Rejoice in this good news, for it is given especially to you.

The Lord's Prayer

Anthem *When Christ Was Born of Mary Free*
16th Century English

The Offering

Offertory *Dearest Jesus, We Await Thee* J.S. Bach

***Doxology** UMH 94

***Prayer of Dedication**

Second Gospel Reading Matthew 11:2-11

Hymn *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* UMH 198
(vv. 1-3, 5)

Sermon "Good News of Joy" Rev. Hoyte L. Wilhelm

***Hymn** *Blessed Be the God of Israel* UMH 209

***Responsive Benediction**

L: Let the love of God flow into your hearts.

P: **Believe in the power of God to change your life.**

L: Behold the goodness of God in creation and in others.

P: **Be at peace and celebrate God's good news. Amen.**

Postlude *Once He Came in Blessing* Setting by Paul Manz

The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of John Solt's birthday.