

### ***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. Judy F.
Carole B.	Donna, sister of Carol N. Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Terry, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.	Steve, lifted by Mary Ellen M.
Louise A.	Matthew F., USAF
Barb and Ray S.	Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC Christopher Y., USAF
Justin, lifted by Vann P.	
Judy, lifted by Brenda F.	
Deb, friend of Claudia & Paul T.	
Kathy, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.	
Bill, Sarah J.'s brother	

### ***This Week's Birthdays***

December 5 Kelly Jona      December 10 John Solt

### ***Today's Worship Leaders***

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm  
Organist: Marlene Dirksen  
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez  
Liturgist: Greg Lavelle  
Greeters: Barb Andrews, Greg Lavelle  
Ushers: Sarah Jackson, Sydney Scothon  
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](http://www.noumc.org)  
Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm, Pastor

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***Second Sunday of Advent*** December 4, 2022 + 10:30 am

***Welcome and Greeting***

***Celebration of Ministries and Missions***

***Prelude***

*Pastorale*

arr. Edward Broughton

***\*Call to Worship***

Greg Lavelle

L: “They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious” (Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV).

**P: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.**

L: “In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming, ‘Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Bear fruit worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:1-2, 8 NRSV).

**P:** We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement that there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

**\*New Testament Reading** Romans 15:4-13

**\*Unison Prayer**

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

**Prayers of the People**

*Prayer Concerns*

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Prayer of Confession*

Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive your words of hope. We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from your light to the darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the ways in which we have blocked your presence; ways in which we have truly failed to be your people. Give us

courage and strength to change our lives, that your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this day. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Though the darkness seems so deep, do not fear. God is with us. Repent! Turn your lives to God. God's love is being poured out for you, always.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Anthem**

**The Offering**

**Offertory** *Awake! Hear the Call of Watchmen* Marcel Dupré

**\*Doxology** UMH 94

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 3:1-12

**Hymn** *All Earth Is Waiting* UMH 210

**Sermon** "Preparing the Way for Peace" Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**\*Hymn** *I Come with Joy* UMH 617

**\*Responsive Benediction**

L: Prepare for the coming of the Lord!

**P: Make way in your hearts for love!**

L: Let go of all anger and fear,  
for God is about to bring great light to the world!

**P: Go in peace and confidence as witnesses to God's love. Amen.**

**Postlude** *Go Forth in Faith* arr. Franklin Ritter  
*Please be seated for the postlude.*