

### Prayer Concerns

First Responders	Carole B.'s niece's family
Victims of natural disasters	Nancy D.
Those suffering from mental Illness, addiction & homelessness	Lois D.
Those affected by gun violence	Anita B.
Victims of Maui wildfires	Ray S.
Curtis, lifted by Reba Y.	Judy, lifted by Brenda F.
Bunny, Liz L.'s Cousin	Marianne, lifted by Janis J.
Doug, friend of Joel & Deb C.	Jane P.
Bill & Marilyn R.	Keith A.
Tammy M.'s Dad's recovery	Judy L.
Alice W.'s Dad's recovery	Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Vicki and her family, daughter of Rae and Walt S.	David and Steve, lifted by Mary Ellen M.
Harry W., son of Harry W.	Terry, Kathy, and Deb, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.
Dan G., lifted by Barb & Ron C.	Barbara B.
Matt, lifted by Janis J.	David N., JoAnne's husband
Joan H.	Joy and Rocky, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.
Jeff S., nephew of Jan & Bill C.	Ron W.
Cindy, Reba Y.'s sister-in-law	Wayne K., lifted by Liz L.

### This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

12/24 Jean Scothon	12/29 Liz Lavelle
12/27 Christopher Homola	12/29 James & Anita Bridges
12/29 John Wolter	12/31 Jim & Ellie Yager

### Today's Worship Leaders

Preacher: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm  
Organist: Javier Gonzalez  
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez  
Liturgist: Alice Walsh  
Greeters: Jim and Ellie Yager, 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 L. Wilhelm, Pastor

### 4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023 10:30 am

### Welcome and Passing of the Peace

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

**P: And also with you.**

### Celebration of Ministries and Missions

**Prelude** *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* Mark Hayes  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

### \*Call to Worship

Alice Walsh

L: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name." (Luke 1:46-49)

**P: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "only" that**

**make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.**

L: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

**\*Unison Prayer**

**We light these candles as signs of hope, peace, joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.**

**\*Old Testament Reading** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

**\*Hymn** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* UMH 218

**Bell Choir** *Away in a Manger* Mark Prater

**Prayers of the People**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. We desire to live secure in your love; to be the ones of peace for our world, and seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us, Bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us. May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which have been offered to us. Thanks be to God!

**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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Choir Anthem** *Morning Star* arr. Lloyd Larson

**Invitation for the Offering**

**Offertory** *Galliard* William Byrd

**\*Doxology** UMH 94

**\*Prayer for the Offering**

**Special Music** *The First Noel* Andy Walsh, guitar

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1:26-38

**Hymn** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* UMH 216

**Sermon** "Transforming Love" Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

**\*Hymn** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240

**\*Responsive Benediction** (based on Mark 13)

L: Beloved, the wait for the Messiah is almost over and has only just begun.

**P: Go from this space carrying the love that transforms us in your hearts, that your lives may give birth to hope, peace, joy, and love wherever you go.**

**All: Amen.**

**Postlude** *Pas d' deux (from The Nutcracker)* Tchaikovsky  
(You are invited to be seated for the Postlude before exiting the Sanctuary.)

*\*Please stand if you are able.*