

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak
Order Of Worship
December 14, 2025 – Third Sunday Of Advent

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Margaret Abraham, “In loving memory of my late brothers, Harry and Samuel.”

GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Lisa, Cory, and Kathy Casey
Light the Advent Candle – FWS #2090 – (v.1,2,3)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: We are ready, O Lord, to behold the presence of your spirit among us.

P: Bless our spirits with openness and joy!

L: We have come on this journey seeking hope and peace.

P: You, O Lord, have poured your spirit on us!

L: Justice and peace shall be brought to all God’s people.

P: No more shall fear and doubt claim us.

L: God is fulfilling the ancient promise of a Savior.

P: Our hearts rejoice at this good news of God’s love. AMEN.

PRAISE & WORSHIP:

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus’ birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn’t dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn’t depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that you gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, Jesus. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we recall the good news of Jesus’ birth. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” - UMH #220

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.

SILENT CONFESSION**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. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: James 5:7-10 (NRSVue)

Luke 1:46-55 (NRSVue)

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS (*children will be dismissed right after*)

HYMN of PREPARATION: "Oh Master, Let Me Walk..." – UMH #430

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11 (NRSVue)

SERMON: "A Servant's Joy"

1. Simple Faith
2. Patience
3. Share the Joy

RESPONSE HYMN: "Love Came Down at Christmas" – UMH #242

OFFERTORY: "Lead On, O King Eternal"

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" – UMH #240

BENEDICTION:

May the love of God fill you until you overflow with joy. May the coming of the Christ Child free you to live in an upside-down world. May the Holy Spirit empower you to work for the reign of God on earth.

At Christmas and throughout the year, may you be inspired to share the good news of God's vision of peace and love. Amen.

https://ministrymatters.com/2019-11-01_worship_elements_december_11_2022/

SCRIPTURE READING

James 5:7-10 (NRSVue)

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Luke 1:46-55 (NRSVue)

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11 (NRSVue)

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples

³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”

⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:

⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

UMCSO SCHEDULE

Zoom links are included in Mailchimp. Please contact us with your email (umcso.ny@gmail.com) or call 914-245-4682 if you would like to receive Mailchimp emails.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP Monday, 7:00 pm, (ZOOM)

MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday 10:00 am (In Person)

PRAYER GROUP: Thursday, 11:00 am (Chapel)

SMALL GROUP 1: Thursday, 1:00 pm (ZOOM)

EVENING BIBLE STUDY: Thursdays, 7:30 pm with Pastor Sandy (ZOOM). (See link below).

SMALL GROUP 2: Friday, 10:00 am (phone 1-267-807-9495; 656355452#)

CRAFTS FOR A CAUSE: Friday, 11:00 am - 12 noon (various homes)

MEN'S GROUP: Saturday 8:00 am (ZOOM)

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 am in the GP room (In person)

TRUSTEE'S MEETING: First Monday of every month. Next: January 5th, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG: Next: Saturday, December 20th , 9:30 am (Zoom)

Pastor Sandy Mantz invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study

Date/Time: Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2610447551?pwd=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0plRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,2610447551#,,, *246240# US

+16465588656,,2610447551#,,, *246240# US (New York)

Announcements and Upcoming Events



Poinsettia Order Deadline is This Sunday, December 14th

Christmas is coming and as we prepare ourselves spiritually, we also start planning for decorating our sanctuary for the holidays. The poinsettias will be delivered and in place for the Christmas Eve Service. You may give these plants as gifts, memorials, or in honor of a living person, **PLANTS MAY BE TAKEN HOME AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE.** If you are interested in providing poinsettia plants, please fill out this form and return to Michele Squibb or the church office. **Please place your order by Sunday, December 14, 2023.** If you

have any questions, please call Michele Squibb at 914-393-5682. Please make checks out to UMCSO and write "Poinsettias" in the memo line.

Prices For Poinsettias This Year Are As Follows

(Please circle your choices and note quantity beside each)

6.5 inch (\$11 ea.) # _____

8 inch (\$25 ea.) # _____

10 inch (\$30 ea) # _____

Name and Phone # of Donor: _____

Person(s) to be Memorialized _____

Person(s) to be Honored _____



Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is up in the back of the sanctuary. Each angel has a gender and age written on it with specific needs on the back. Feel free to use the link below for the Amazon wish list as well. **The deadline for all donations is Dec. 21st.**

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3Cl8H3VUD040P?ref=wl_share

Bowling Fellowship Fun Continues! The group, now known as “The UMCSO Holy Rollers,” meets on Sundays at JV Lanes and all are welcome. See the sign-up sheet in the breezeway or contact Wesley Battle Sr. (914-837-4835) for more information. Practice from 1:30-2:00 pm, bowl from 2-5 pm.

CAROLING AT JV MALL: December 14th at 1:00 pm. Come make a joyful noise to the Lord!

PAGEANT REHEARSAL: Saturday, Dec. 20th at 4:30 pm. Pizza will be served.

LIVE NATIVITY: Also on Saturday, Dec. 20th at 6:00 pm following pageant rehearsal

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Sunday December 21st during worship

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: If you have a child going into 7th grade, please speak to Pastor Sandy or Kathy Casey regarding upcoming confirmation classes.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP FORMING! We are excited to be starting a Young Adult Group at UMCSO this fall! If you are a young adult, please fill out this survey so we can find a good time for our first meeting. If you know of a young adult who may be interested, please forward this link to them, or have them speak to Pastor Sandy or Lisa Grace. We look forward to growing this new ministry!

[Young Adult Meeting Survey](#)

REACH US ON FACEBOOK

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

<https://www.facebook.com/Blessedassurance.today>

There is a link to the Church's website
Pastor Sandy will post inspirational verses regularly

.....

This Week's Birthdays:

Dianne Benincasa	12/15
Doreen Matthews	12/17
Aria Supino	12/18
Nick Aryee	12/19
Jordan Philips	12/19
Gary Speedling	12/20

No Anniversaries This Week