



# Woodbury United Methodist Church

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**"GAUDETE"**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 14, 2025**

**10:30 a.m.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

## **WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*"Come, Thou Dear Redeemer"*

Cesar Franck

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Davis, Liturgist

Philippians 4:4-7, NRSV (ed.)

L: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

P: *Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.*

L: Do not worry about anything, but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

P: *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

\*HYMN

*"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

UMH #184

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Joy

Cathy and Mark Riefenhauser, Keri and Zak Lavish, Adam Riefenhauser and  
Emmily Quinn

SUNG RESPONSE (*unison*)

*Light the candle of JOY today, the Giver of joy will come!*

*Welcome the joy we long and wait for, but only Christ can give.*

*Flicker and flame and glow with joy, light up the world around you. (2x)*

THE COLLECT (*seated, unison*)

*O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to thy wisdom, that we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, one God, world without end. Amen.*

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Blessed Lord, we too often watch for what we want rather than for what you give. Forgive our undue love of the world; our distracted faith; our ineffectual service. Save us from hungers that are too easily satisfied. Help us to live for holy purpose, that we may not be ashamed, though Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

## SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

### WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 35:1-10

THE EPISTLE James 5:7-10

\*THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

\*HYMN *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* UMH #196

THE SERMON *"Removing the Cataracts"* Pastor Brian Bodt

### WE RESPOND IN FAITH

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH #895

**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.**

*"TESTIMONY"* Rynn Naylor

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"* JS Bach  
The Chancel Choir

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* UMH #221, vs. 4

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* UMH #206

## \*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*"In Dulci Jubilo"*

JS Bach

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**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

**WORSHIP, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary**

**FELLOWSHIP TIME, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

**"GRIEF, HEALING AND THE HOLIDAYS", 11:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16**

**OPEN CHURCH MID-WEEK PRAYER, 7-7:45 p.m., Sanctuary**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17**

**BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL, 6 p.m., Sanctuary**

**CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7:15 p.m., Sanctuary**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18**

**OFFICE HOURS, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Church office**

**MENORAH LIGHTING, 5 p.m., Congregation B'nai Israel, 444 Main Street South, Southbury**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**

**PAGEANT REHEARSAL, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Sanctuary**

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**

Our annual Christmas pageant will tell the story of the birth of Christ. The message, *"Fashioning the Crib of Christ"* will be based on Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25. The candle of Love will be lit by Meg, Jon, Sam and Lydia Temple. After worship, those who can stay will help assemble luminaria bags.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

**Christmas Sunday, December 21, 10:30 a.m. – Christmas pageant and sermon *"Fashioning the Crib of Christ."***

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 5 p.m. – Carols and candlelight with the message *"For Those Who Say 'Yes!'"***

*"O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."*