



Bellflower UMC

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

GREETINGS ^{1 2}

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP³

Come, joy, lighten our spirits.

Come, hope, lift us from despair.

Come, peace, ease our frantic worry.

Come, love, shine in all we do.

Come, Jesus, be born in us.

Come, Lord, set us free.

Come, God,

Rule in our hearts and teach us to sing with joy!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING⁴

Reader One: Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, the universe and everything, we need a blessing. We don't always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or someone to come along

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

² Eleanor Farjeon. *People, Look East*. 1928.

³ Dr. Derek C. Weber, Discipleship Ministries. <http://umcdiscipleship.org>

⁴ Dr. Derek C. Weber, Discipleship Ministries. <http://umcdiscipleship.org>

beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes. We seek a blessing.

Reader Two: For many of us, we go home; we ask mom; we talk to dad, or brothers and sisters, close friends, those we grew up with, those who know us best. We want them alongside; we want to be in their presence. Somehow, we know that being there, being home, will make all things better. Maybe it won't be fixed, or solved, or wished away, but at least we won't be alone. We seek a blessing.

Reader One: Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to Cousin Elizabeth's house, looking for someone who knew a little of what she was going through, looking for a place to hide until the reality of her condition could become something real. And she received a blessing. The prophet Micah spoke of a blessing coming to an unexpected place, an unassuming town. Yet by God's grace would become the means through which God would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing. We seek a blessing.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope, of peace, of joy and of today, love, as a sign that we know blessing and we know waiting for blessing to be felt and lived. We light these candles as a sign that we still seek a blessing. It's time to go home.

Light all four candles in the Advent wreath

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High - UMH238

What Child Is This - UMH219

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

OT READING - Micah 5:2-5a

GOSPEL - Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

SERMON

OFFERING & PEACE

🎵 DOXOLOGY - UMH95

HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION⁵

You know the time is coming!

The time to wake from our sleep.

Salvation is nearer to us now than
when we became believers.

The night is gone, the day is near.

Let us lay aside the works of darkness.

We will wear the armor of light.

POSTLUDE - Go Now In Peace

Bellflower UMC spreads God's love within our church family and throughout our communities and world using our prayers, our gifts and our service; thus to become a shelter of love and a community of compassion..

To learn more, visit facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (309-722-1500, pastor@bellflower-umc.org).

⁵ UM Book of Worship, 243. Adapted.

