

**AVONDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024**



**THE  
WALK  
WHERE YOUR  
TREASURE IS**



**AVONDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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## GATHERING

Gathering Music

*Blessed Assurance*

Mike Slavik, trumpet

WORDS: Fanny Crosby | MUSIC: Phoebe Palmer Knapp; arr. Don Marsh | © 2022 Van Ness Press, Inc.  
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Gathering

### \* Call to Worship

One: Thinking we know all the answers,  
yet wondering if we haven't missed something:

**All: we enter this sanctuary of Truth.**

One: In the company of sinners,  
in cahoots with saints:

**All: we gather as God's people.**

One: Standing by folks of deep, abiding faith;  
seated with those who stumble through the Kingdom:

**All: we lift our praise to God.  
Today we come with joy!**

### \* Song of Faith

*I Come with Joy*

UMH 617

DOVE OF PEACE | WORDS: Brian Wren | MUSIC: *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. By Charles H. Webb, 1987 | Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.; Music © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House | | CCLI Song #2802284 | All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI #20356168.

I come with joy to meet my Lord,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall  
his life laid down for me,  
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread  
and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.

The love that made us makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.  
His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known;  
we see and praise him here,  
see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,  
we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world,  
we'll live and speak his praise,  
we'll live and speak his praise.

ENGAGING

The Brown Bag Mystery Tour

R<sup>2</sup> & The AUMC Young Ones

*Jesus Loves the Little Children*; WORDS & MUSIC: Clare Herbert Woolston and George Frederick Root; alt. | Public Domain | CCLI Song #58415 | All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI #20356168.

Jesus loves the little children  
All the children of the World  
Every shade from dark to light

All are precious in His sight  
Jesus loves the little children  
of the world.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 | Matthew 5:1-2; 6:19-21

\* Song of Faith

*What Gift Can We Bring*

UMH 87

ANNIVERSARY SONG | WORDS & MUSIC: Jane Marshall | © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. | CCLI Song #216549 | All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI #20356168.

What gift can we bring,  
what present, what token?  
What words can convey it,  
the joy of this day?  
When grateful we come,  
remembering, rejoicing,  
what song can we offer  
in honor and praise?

Give thanks for tomorrow,  
full of surprises,  
for knowing whatever  
tomorrow may bring,  
the Word is our promise  
always, forever;  
we rest in God's keeping  
and live in God's love.

Give thanks for the past,  
for those who had vision,  
who planted and watered  
so dreams could come true.  
Give thanks for the now,  
for study for worship,  
for mission that bids us  
turn prayer into deed.

This gift we now bring,  
this present, this token,  
these words can convey it,  
the joy of this day!  
When grateful we come,  
remembering, rejoicing,  
this song we now offer  
in honor and praise!

Message

*The Walk: A Living Hallelujah*

THANKSGIVING

Call to the Table

*You Feed Us Gentle Savior*

MERLE'S TUNE | WORDS: Steve Garnaas-Holmes | MUSIC: Hal Hopson | Words © 2009 Steve Garnaas-Holmes; Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Co. | All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # 741663-A.

You feed us, gentle Savior,  
the bread that makes us whole,

the wine of your compassion  
poured out into our soul.  
The food of your own presence,  
your Spirit, strong, within,  
the grace that heals us deeply  
and overcomes our sin.

Gathering at the Table of Christ

UMH pg. 15

Invitation

Our Shared Confession

One: Let us pray ...

**All: Merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have not loved you**  
**with our whole heart.**  
**We have failed to be an obedient church.**  
**We have not done your will,**  
**we have broken your law,**  
**we have rebelled against you love,**  
**we have not loved our neighbors,**  
**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**  
**Forgive us, we pray.**  
**Free us for joyful obedience,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

One: Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

You bind us, gentle Savior,  
and weave us into one,  
one flesh and blood made holy,  
the Body of your Son.

We gather here in hunger  
one hunger, all the same;  
and with one grace you bless us  
together in his name.

The Great Thanksgiving

UMH pg. 15

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Almighty God, we bless you ... and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, in the highest.**

One: With thanksgiving ... the great mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One: God of Abundance ... now an forever.

**All: Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

You call us, gentle Savior,  
and send us in your name.  
You teach and heal and show us  
how we can do the same.

So, strengthened by your Spirit  
and nourished by your grace,  
we go to be your presence  
in love, in every place.

Breaking the Bread & Sharing the Feast

*As we break bread together around the Lord's Table we hope that you will join us in the feast in the sanctuary of your home. Now is a time to gather something to eat and drink, remembering that these are an outpouring of Christ's love for you. We will also receive our offering during this time as well as our 2024 Financial Commitment Cards. You may send your offerings to the church at 3101 NE Winn Rd., Kansas City, MO 64117. Or you may make your contribution electronically. Simply follow the QR code on the right to quickly get to the donation page at [avondalemethodist.org](http://avondalemethodist.org).*



Music for Feasting

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

Mike Slavik, trumpet

Music: Afro-American spiritual; arr. Jay Althouse | © 2009 Alfred Publishing Co. | All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # 741663-A and CCLI #20356168.

Returning Thanks

One: Let us pray ...

**All: We bless you, O God, for gifts of bread and cup, for sustaining us in hope, every day of our lives. We pray for your strength to prepare us now for your service as we offer to you our gifts, our financial commitments for the year, as well as our lives of witness and worship in the world you have made. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

### Upcoming

#### \* Song of Faith

*Whatever You Do*

CRADLE SONG | WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; © Carolyn Winfrey Gillette | MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick; © 1960 Oxford University Press | All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense # 741663-A and CCLI #20356168.

“Whatever you do to the least ones of these,  
I tell you in truth that you do unto me!”  
Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew  
that when we serve others, we also serve you.

When poor, waiting children pray hunger will end,  
when those long forgotten cry out for a friend,  
when thirsty ones whisper, “O Lord, where are you?”  
we hear, in their longing, that you’re calling, too.

In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise:  
we see you in people whom others despise.  
At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer  
and find, when we visit the sick, you are there.

When we reach to others in flood-stricken lands  
and offer our hearts there, and offer our hands,  
we notice, Lord Jesus, the gift of your grace;  
we see, in the crowds of the suffering, your face.

“Lord, when did we see you?” Your teaching is clear  
that when we serve others, we’re serving you here.  
And when your church heeds you and helps those in pain,  
then out of the chaos, hope rises again.

### Blessing

#### Parting Music

*God Be with You*

UMH 672

GOD BE WITH YOU | WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880 | MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880 | CCLI Song #49273 | All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI #20356168.

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### Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak

Ministers: The People

Music Director: Kevin Hershberger

Guest Musician: Mike Slavik, trumpet

Worship Leader: Bonnie House

Tech Team: Brent Henry & Stephanie Johnson

Candle Lighters: Kendall Flinn & Ellie Slavik

## Walking Our Faith: Give Where Our Treasure Is...

As we continue to adopt practices that strengthen our discipleship, our walk with Jesus, we focus on giving. The LORD always connects our use of money with our spiritual wellbeing. Every act of generosity is not only a reflection of our relationship with God but a signpost pointing to where our treasure is.

As we grow in our understanding of generosity, its impact on our lives, our relationship with God, and with the world around us let's use our hands once again to practice our faith. This week our "clenched dominant hand represents your giving to God through the church, where your generosity, combined with that of the others in [our] congregation, makes possible the ministry of the church and its witness in the world. This giving is an act of worship and Christian discipleship that reflects our love for and faithfulness to God." This is reflected in the commitment cards that we bring today. "The fingers of the open hand represent five acts of extra-ordinary generosity towards others each month."

Source: Hamilton, Adam. *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*. (Nashville:Abingdon Press, 2019) 109.

## Daily Prayer for the Week

Thank you, God, for everything I have. I recognize that all of life is a gift from you. Please help me to become more generous, more willing to share with others. Help me to live beneath my means so that I might have enough margin to give. Help me to be generous toward you and others, remembering your unending generosity toward me. Amen.

Source: Hamilton, Adam. *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*. (Nashville:Abingdon Press, 2019) 110.

## Daily Readings for the Week

Every day through scripture reading and prayer we will discover the broader story of God's Word. This week's readings deepen our understanding of Jesus' call to a generous life. Together let's go deeper into God's Word this week.

Monday ... 1 Timothy 6:17-19

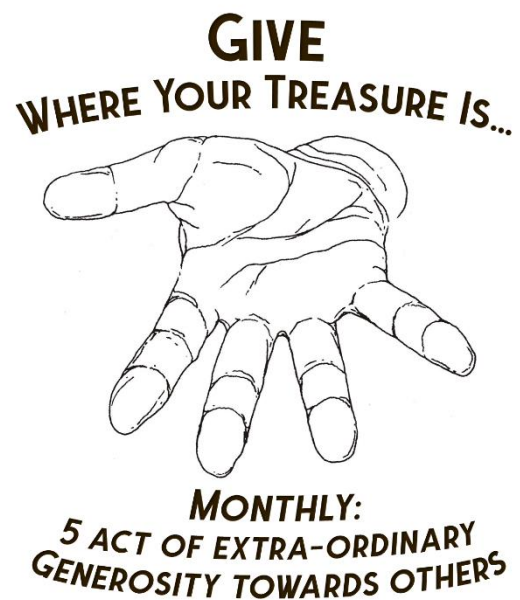
Tuesday ... Luke 6:38 & 12:15

Wednesday ... Matthew 6:24 & 22:37-39

Thursday ... John 14:6

Friday ... John 15:13

Saturday ... Acts 20:35



## Worship Credits

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**Call to Worship** by Thom Shuman, alt. and posted on his Lectionary Liturgies blog. As found at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/call-to-worship-prayer-january-29-2012.html>.

**Prayer for Illumination** by Clara Welch, *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life: Leader Guide*. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2019) 40-41.

**Walking Our Faith** and **Prayer of the Week** adapted from: Hamilton, Adam. *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2019) 109-110.