



*the open door ~ praise & worship service  
...in a religion born in a barn, an open door goes without saying*

12.14.16 • 7:00 pm

## **welcome & announcements**

**visual reflection**                    "Follow" ([ministrymatters.com/FollowTheStar](http://ministrymatters.com/FollowTheStar))

## **lighting of the Advent candle of Joy**

*As Your light has illumined our darkness,  
and Your joy has lifted our hearts,  
so may we become Your light to the world,  
strengtheners of the weak, protectors of the vulnerable,  
and bringers of joy wherever the darkness of grief holds sway. Amen.*

**song**                                    "Lord I Need You"

**song**                                    "Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone"

**bible reading**                    "Isaiah 35:1-10" The Voice (VOICE)

<sup>35</sup> *Imagine the wilderness whooping for joy,  
the desert's unbridled happiness with its spring flowers.*

<sup>2</sup> *It will happen!*

*The deserts will come alive with new growth budding and blooming,  
singing and celebrating with sheer delight.*

*The glory of Lebanon's cedars and the majesty of Carmel and Sharon  
will spill over to the deserts.*

*The glory of the Eternal One will be on full display there,  
and they will revel in the majestic splendor of our God.*

<sup>3</sup> *So, with confidence and hope in this message,  
strengthen those with feeble hands,  
shore up the weak-kneed and weary.*

<sup>4</sup> Tell those who worry, the anxious *and fearful*,

“Take strength; have courage!

*There’s nothing to fear.*

Look, here—your God!

Right here is your God!

The balance is shifting;

God will right all wrongs.

None other than God will give you success.

He is coming to make you safe.”

<sup>5</sup> Then, *such healing, such repair*:

the eyes of the blind will be opened;

the ears of the deaf will be clear.

**children’s moment**      “The Christmas Gift Experiment”

**reflection**

**presentation of the offerings**

**welcome of new members**

***We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.***

**song**      “Hosanna”

**dance party with Jesus**      “Sing for Joy”

**benediction & passing the peace**

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