



Good Samaritan welcomes and affirms all persons regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or socioeconomic background. We seek to reconcile any differences that divide us.

### PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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#### E-News

Email [cindy@good.org](mailto:cindy@good.org) to receive the weekly e-news.



Find us on:

#### Prayer Chain

Email [jim@good.org](mailto:jim@good.org) for prayer requests or to receive the weekly prayer chain email.

#### Thank you...

**Ushers:** Jane Heimerl, Dean Kraus, Janet VanBenthuisen

**AV Techs:** Brad Carlin, Noemi Dooley.

**Readers:** Rev. Jim Beard, Lisa Harmening, Charisse Litteken, David Litteken

**Special Music:** String Quartet: William Samorey & Myra Han, violins; Jordan Warmath, viola; Joe Kaiser, cello; Chancel Choir, Natalie McComas, Conductor

**Communion Servers:** Rev. Jim Beard, Rev. Max Richter, Pat Olson, Janet Van Benthuisen

**WORSHIP**  
9:00 PM

December 24, 2025  
Candlelight  
Christmas Eve

### Our Vision

Inspiring  
Joyful Faith

Building a  
Loving  
Community

Serving  
Neighbors  
Near and Far



Who we are. What we do.



**Good Samaritan United Methodist Church**

5730 Grove Street, Edina, Minnesota 55436

(952) 929-0049 ~ [good.org](http://good.org)

WELCOME to all  
worshiping with  
us this evening.

Large print  
hymnals and  
bulletins are  
available from the  
ushers.

Hearing assist  
devices are  
available at the  
sound booth.

Christmas offerings  
may be dedicated  
for Missions –  
where needed  
most, or a specific  
mission project.  
Undesignated  
offerings tonight  
will support the  
general ministries  
of Good  
Samaritan. For  
secure giving  
online, visit  
[good.org/give](http://good.org/give) or  
this QR code:



\*Standing or  
sitting.

**Welcome!** We are so glad you are here for our Candlelight Worship on Christmas Eve. We gather for worship in person on Sundays at 10:00 a.m., with children invited in person to Sunday School after Children's Time. Our values include joyful faith, deliberate inclusion, intentional questioning, compassionate care, and transformative outreach. We welcome and affirm all people regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, or socioeconomic background. We seek to reconcile any differences that divide us. If you are seeking a faith community and these values resonate with you, we hope you will consider Good Samaritan UMC. Please contact [Jan@good.org](mailto:Jan@good.org) for more information about children and youth ministries.

PRELUDE Two Christmas Eve Chorales ARR. KEVIN HILDEBRAND  
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"  
Pastorale on "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

WELCOME Rev. Max Richter

\*HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1, 3, 6) UMC 234

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

One: Today, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah: *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.* (Isaiah 9:6-7)

**All: We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.**

We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.

HYMN	"Away in a Manger"	UMH 217
THE PROPHECY	Isaiah 9:2-7	David Litteken
THE BIRTH	Luke 2:1-7	Charisse Litteken
MESSAGE	"Good News"	Rev. Max Richter
SPECIAL MUSIC	"Noël Nouvelet"	ARR. HAROLD OWEN
THE ANGELS	Luke 2:8-14	Rev. Jim Beard
*HYMN	"Angels We Have Heard on High" (vs. 1, 2, 3)	UMH 238
THE SHEPHERDS	Luke 2:15-20	Lisa Harmening
OFFERING	"Away in a Manger"	ARR. REGINALD JACQUES
BLESSING OF THE GIFTS		
SHARING OF HOLY COMMUNION		
The Invitation to the Lord's Table		
Prayer of Confession		
<b>God, you loved this world so much that you sent your own son, Jesus Christ to be born among us, in order that we might have life. Forgive us for keeping that abundant life to ourselves, for jealously hoarding your generous gifts, for choosing self-interest over compassion and justice. Teach us what it means to live as children of the light, generously sharing your abundance with our brothers and sisters in need. Amen.</b>		
The Great Thanksgiving		TFWS 2257a-d

The Lord's Prayer

**Our God\*, 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.**

*(\*Mother, Father, Creator, etc. - use the word that is most meaningful for you.)*

Receiving the Elements

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen or Alleluia.**  
The cup of the New Covenant, poured for you. **Amen or Alleluia.**

Music During Distribution      "What Child is This"      UMH 219  
Chorale Prelude on "In dulci jubilo"      JOHANN MICHAEL BACH

INTRODUCTION TO CANDLELIGHTING

*We celebrate how Christ comes as light into this world and shines in and through each of us, as we share the light with one another.*

*Please use caution as you pass the light:  
Tip your unlit candle to the lit flame of your neighbor.  
Please return candles to the ushers as you leave.*

\*HYMN      "Silent Night" (vs. 1-3)      UMH 239

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1) Silent night, holy night,<br/>all is calm, all is bright<br/>round yon virgin mother and child.<br/>Holy infant, so tender and mild,<br/>sleep in heavenly peace,<br/>sleep in heavenly peace.</p>        | <p>2) Silent night, holy night,<br/>shepherds quake at the sight;<br/>glories stream from heaven afar,<br/>heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born!</p> |
| <p>3) Silent night, holy night,<br/>Son of God, love's pure light;<br/>radiant beams from thy holy face<br/>with the dawn of redeeming grace,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.</p> |  |

\*THE LIGHT      John 1:1-5, 14      Rev. Max Richter

\*HYMN      "Joy to the World" (v.1, 4)      UMH 246

- 1) Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
- 4) He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

\*BLESSING

POSTLUDE      "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"      ARR. BENJAMIN CULLI

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**Advent Wreath Liturgy:** From *All the Earth is Waiting* – UMC Discipleship Ministries <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/toda-la-tierra-espera/christmas-eve-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/christmas-eve-year-a-candle-lighting-liturgy>  
**Prayer of Confession:** Christine Longhurst, posted on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank website <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/>.



## 2025 Christmas Flowers

*Thank you to all who contributed to  
the beauty of the Sanctuary this season.*

Nancy & Ted Ahrenholtz  
in memory of Bill and Dorothy Fredendall

Pastor Jim and Janet Beard  
in honor of family


Dale, Jr., Katie, and Shirley Braddock  
in memory of Dale Braddock

Adele Brellenthin  
in memory of William Brellenthin

Caroline Carlin  
in memory of my parents, Morrie and Amy Tuttle

Natalie Cramer  
in memory of Bob and Jeanne Cramer

Lynne Ferrell  
in memory of Lily Grace Schwartzbauer,  
Nancy Sutherland and Barb Schwartzbauer



Carol Gottesman  
in memory of Irving Gottesman,  
Betty Boysen, and Gary Applen



Leigh Hamersten  
in memory of Hub, Helen, and Ron Kron

Gerry Hartman

Judith Hillger

Mike and Beth Hutson  
in honor of peace on earth

Sarah Kumagai

Mary and Mac Lewis  
in memory of our son, Mckenzie, and our parents

Charisse and David Litteken  
in memory of David's mother, Lea Litteken,  
and Charisse's father and stepfather,  
Marvin Edwards and Damon Benedict

Pat and Len Olson  
in memory of our parents,  
Robert and Fern Olson, and Leonard and Eileen Olson

Jennifer Roach  
in memory of Joe Roach

Lynda and Richard Seitz  
in memory of our daughter, Kara

Charlotte Snook  
in memory of Robert (Bob) Snook

