

Resist evil in all its forms:  
Racism, Discrimination, Exploitation, Violence



The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

*Luke 1:35 (RSV)*

December 20, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent

*Gathering to Celebrate in Worship*

Welcome & Call to Worship

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Announcements

Invocation

*Offering Up of Our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness*

Lighting the Shepherd's Candle for Love

Hymn of Praise

*Mary's Little Boy Child*

God Sightings and Personal Testimonies

Prayer Concerns *Solidarity with Virus, War and Storm Victims and Suffering Children*

**Added to the Prayer List from Last Week**

Bonnie Ross, Cheryl Lawson, Annette Deem, Family of Kay Wyatt

**Health Care Workers:** Ron Fowler, Melissa Milam, Donna Smith, Greer Waldrop, Joy Crook

**Homebound:** Dianne Stallion, Freda & Dan Wyatt, Mary Lou Anderson, Betty Travis, Carl Hamilton, Ruth Purvis

**Military Families**

Ron Fowler, Dylan Field, Kale Merrick, Matthew Petway, Sarah Petway, Randy Bagwell, Christopher Telle, Brittany Jones, Bryar Fortner

**In God's Hands: Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for Dec 20-26**

Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan

Prayers of the People

Extend your greeting to your favored ones, O God, and let your Holy Spirit overshadow us, that we may proclaim your love to our generation, as we look for the coming of Christ, saying:

**Let your faithfulness and love be with us;  
for your love is established for ever.**

Let your prophetic writings be made known to all nations to bring release and comfort to all who are oppressed, to lift up the lowly, and to fill the hungry with good things.

**Let your faithfulness and love be with us;  
for your love is established for ever.**

Prayer of Confession and Reconciliation

Words of Assurance, Pastoral Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer

Offertory and †Doxology

[www.Briensburg.org/donate](http://www.Briensburg.org/donate)

*Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness.*

*"Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow!"*

*Proclamation of the Word*

The Bible Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Hymn of Celebration

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Passing the Peace of Christ

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

**The Sword of the Lord**

**Like a "surgeon's scalpel" (MSG)**

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.  
*Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)*

**"Cut Straight" (Thayer's and Smith's Bible Dictionary)**

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

*2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)*

**Produces the intended results**

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. *Isaiah 55:11 (ESV)*

**Provides awareness and guidance**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.  
*Psalms 119:105 (GNT)*

**The Living Word**

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. *John 1:14 (MSG)*

*Responding to God's Call on Our Lives*

Invitation to Christian Discipleship *The altar in our heart is always open*

Hymn of Dedication

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

*Continuing in Ministry to Our Community*

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." *Jesus, Mark 16:15*

Going Forth to Love Others as Christ Loves Us

Choral Benediction

*Beloved, Let Us Love One Another*



*Briensburg United Methodist Church*

Helping Each Other Serve to Our Full Potential

[www.Briensburg.org](http://www.Briensburg.org)  
[facebook.com/Briensburg](https://www.facebook.com/Briensburg)

Phone 270-527-8758



**Prayer Line:** Text or call Becky Blanchard, 270-205-0292

We invite everyone to share fully in the worship services, life, ministry, and leadership of Briensburg United Methodist Church inclusive of age, race, nationality, gender, LGBTQ, theology, politics, and legal status.



**Reconciling Ministries Network**

Our "Reconciling Congregation" invites you to become a "Reconciling United Methodist" by completing a card in the vestibule or signing up online at [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)

**Please support the ministries of your church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness**  
See [www.Briensburg.org/calendar](http://www.Briensburg.org/calendar) for complete calendar

**WORSHIP & STUDY**

**Saturday Worship Celebrations**

- 5:00 pm — Online Interactive

**Sunday Worship Celebrations with Communion**

- 11:00 am — Online Worship

**Wednesday Leadership Bible Study**

- 6:30 pm — Interactive Online Discussion

**Girl Scouts & Venturing Crew** continuing online and as announced

*All In-person events, including worship services, are suspended.*

**Online Giving at [Briensburg.org/donate](http://Briensburg.org/donate)**

Contributions may be made online at [www.Briensburg.org/donate](http://www.Briensburg.org/donate) or mailed to: Briensburg UMC, 1908 Briensburg Rd., Benton KY 42025

**Next Week's Bible Reading**

John 1:1-18

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*John 1:14 (RSV)*

*Beloved*

Let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for

*God is Love.*

*1 John 4:7-8*

**Worship and Bible Study by Phone or Computer**

*It's easy!*

With any phone, call any one of the dial-in numbers below  
*(several provided in case some are busy)*

- 929 205 6099
- 253 215 8782
- 301 715 8592
- 669 900 6833

When prompted, enter the  
**Meeting ID: 377 073 712**  
**Passcode: 522606**

Or, if you want to participate with video by computer or smartphone, follow the prompts at  
[zoom.us/j/377073712](https://zoom.us/j/377073712)

*The meetings will be online 15 minutes early so everyone can greet and catch up with each other.*

**Briensburg United Methodist Church**  
Hymns for December 20, 2020

**Candle of Love**

The candle of love  
tells what we are worth:  
God loves us so much,  
God came to the earth!  
An angel brought news  
of a child who would be  
The one who would save us  
and set us all free.

From "The Candle of Hope"  
Words © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

Infant holy,  
infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing,  
Christ the babe is  
Lord of all.  
Swift are winging,  
angels singing,  
noels ringing,  
tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is  
Lord of all.

Flocks are sleeping,  
shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory,  
heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing,  
free from sorrow,  
praises voicing,  
greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was  
born for you.

UM Hymnal #229  
WORDS: Polish carol; Lk. 2:6-20  
trans. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1925

**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

Silent night holy night  
All is calm all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night holy night  
Son of God love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Silent night holy night  
Wondrous star lend thy light  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

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