

# Ephraim Moravian Church

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[www.ephraimmoravian.org](http://www.ephraimmoravian.org)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

**PASTOR:**.....The Rev. Dawn E. Volpe  
**MINISTERS:**.....Members of the Congregation  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**.....Colin Welford  
**SECRETARY:**.....Diane Kirkland

Serving the Community Since 1853

Three Chorale Preludes for Advent – by J.S. Bach:

“From Heaven Above, to Earth I Come”

“In Sweet Rejoicing”

“Come, Redeemer of our Race”

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

“Elegy” – from ‘A Dowland Suite’ – by John Ireland

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent

“The Amazing Story of Christmas” (Insert)

“Angels’ Carol” – by John Rutter

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 1: 18 - 25

Meditation

Offertory: “Scottish Legend” - by Amy Beach

Doxology

Prayers of the Church, The Lord’s Prayer

**Congregational Sung Response:**

*Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!*

*Your kingdom among us, your will done the same*

*By mortals and angels, Come, Lord reign alone.*

*Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven’s high throne. Amen*

Benediction

**Fantasia on Psalm 72:11** “May all kings bow down to Him and all nations serve Him” – **by Jan Zwart (The Netherlands, 1837-1937)** based upon the hymn-tune we know as, “Praise God, From Whom all Blessings Flow.”

**WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK:** “Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.” – Psalm 80:19

**MONDAY:** Pastor’s Sabbath

**WEDNESDAY:** 9:30 a.m. Caring Hands

**SATURDAY:** CHRISTMAS EVE:

3:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. candlelight services

**SUNDAY:** CHRISTMAS DAY: NO SERVICES

**WELCOME** to Ephraim Moravian Church. Our Nursery is open for children under the age of 4.

**EPHRAIM MORAVIAN CHURCH** is the ‘Church of the Open Door.’ We hope you find our church open to you in every way!

**MOTTO OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH:** In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love.

**EPHRAIM MORAVIAN WATCHWORD 2022:** “The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.” – James 3:17

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU** to Marcia Ellis for sharing her singing talents with us.

**OUR LAY READER** today is confirmand Shayla Opitz.

**THANKS** to all the kids who participated today in the special program about Christmas. You are a joy!

### Reflection by Pastor Dan G. Olson

“How could she have done such a thing?” Joseph might have thought. Here they were, Mary and Joseph, in love with each other. Engaged even. And Mary shows up pregnant? “Oh, dear God in Heaven!” Joseph might have said, and “I had nothing to do with it.” It seemed to Joseph the only clear path was to break the engagement, to quietly divorce her. But the agony of that had Joseph’s heart, mind and soul tied up in knots. What to do? Best to sleep on it.

Then our Lord used that sleep time dream to talk directly into Joseph’s ear. Dreams seem to be God’s favorite form of communication.

Of course the centerpiece of Christmas time is the birth of Jesus. But on the night of Joseph’s dream there was a birthing as real as Christmas Eve. It was the birth of a father for the Son of God. In his dreaming state, Joseph allowed God to speak to the depths of his heart and to offer a resolution to his dilemma about Mary that his human reason could not solve.

On this night, as much as on Christmas Eve, and angel hovered near, whispering a message from God into Joseph’s dreams. The angel showed Joseph the visions of a boy growing and becoming strong.

“Here,” whispered the angel, “is the key that unlocks your dilemma, Joseph. Believe Mary. Marry her and become the father of God’s child. He will need a father like you to be accepted by others as he grows to manhood. He will need not just not any father, but a father like you, Joseph, capable of nurturing him, and giving a name – ‘Immanuel, God with us!’”



**Happy New Year!**  
**Our Annual New Year’s**  
**Day Concert!**  
**with Colin Welford &**  
**Friends**

**January 1, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Ephraim Moravian Church**

**featuring**  
**Scott Ramsay (tenor)**  
**&**  
**Grace Alberts (soprano)**

**FREE Concert!**  
**(masks optional)**