

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A community of faith committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through words and actions

DECEMBER 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:30 A.M. Service

We welcome you to this service of praise and adoration. Let God speak to you through the songs and the message, and enjoy the fellowship of those who are seeking the Lord and the spiritual help that we need for daily living.

WELCOME

Jim Blizard, Worship Leader

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All creation holds its breath.

People: The time is almost here.

Leader: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

People: Excitement is all around us.

Leader: Prepare your hearts – The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

People: We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Peg & Taylor Marcinek

WORSHIP IN SONG: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (by John F. Wade) VERSES 1, 3, & 6

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; Refrain.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain (Public Domain)

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE (by John Mason Neale) (1989 U. M. Publishing House)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Give you heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ was born today!

Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Now we hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed forever more

Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this.

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Now we need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls us one and calls us all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

OFFERING (by Paul Baloche)

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star while angels sang to lowly shepherds.

Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar hoping to find the Child from Heaven.

Falling on their knees they bowed before the humble Prince of Peace.

Chorus: I bring an offering of worship to my King. No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing. Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due, O Lord, I bring an offering to You, I bring an offering to You.

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love; There is no shadow in Your presence.

No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne, before the Holy One of Heaven.

It's only by Your blood and it's only through Your mercy, Lord, I come. (chorus)

Tag: O Lord, I bring an offering to You, O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

O Lord, I bring an offering to You, I bring an offering to You. (2003 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)

OPENING PRAYER: This Advent-time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfillment of your plan to bring your prodigal people home again. We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamour of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

STAR-CHILD (by Shirley Murray) (©1994 Hope Pub. Co)

Star-Child, earth-Child, go between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,

Refrain: This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child, used child, no one wants to know, (refrain)

Grown child, old child, memory full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears, (refrain)

Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store, (refrain)

Hope for peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down to earth Child, Star of stars that shine, (refrain)

EMMANUEL (by Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash)

What hope we hold this starlit night: a King is born in Bethlehem.

Our journey long, we seek the light that leads to the hallowed manger ground.

What fear we felt in the silent age, Four hundred years can He be found?

But broken by a baby's cry; rejoice in the hallowed manger ground.

Chorus: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God incarnate, here to dwell.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, praise His name, Emmanuel.

The Son of God, here, born to bleed; a crown of thorns would pierce His brow.

And we beheld this offering, exalted now, the King of kings, praise God for the hallowed manger ground.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God incarnate, here to dwell. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, praise His name, Emmanuel.

Emmanuel, praise His name, Emmanuel. (2009 Worshiptogether.com)

BRINGING OUR NEEDS TO GOD

PRAYER RESPONSE WHAT CHILD IS THIS (William Dix)

What Child is this who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping.

Chorus: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary. (Public Domain)

WORSHIP IN GIVING: Offering

We welcome all who are worshiping with us this morning. Please fill out the Friendship Pad and pass it along to the person next to you and then pass back to the center aisle. Write any special prayer requests on the sheets provided in the pew racks and place in the offering plate.

SHARING THE WORD Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 2:6-7

Message: How Silently, How Silently

Pastor Richard Nichols

CLOSING HYMN 230 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (Phillips Brooks) (Public Domain)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep

their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,

and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

GOING FORTH: The Benediction

PLEASE JOIN YOUR FRIENDS and your 1st UMC family in Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning following this service. Come for coffee, tea, lemonade and continental breakfast from 10:30-11:00. Just follow the path outside the Sanctuary building or wind your way inside the Education Building, up to Fellowship Hall.

A NOTE TO PARENTS: Child care is available in Room E101 for children up to age four.

ACOLYTE: Synclaire Angelow **SCRIPTURE READER:** Elite Law

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: Worship: 554 Sunday School: 72

USHERS: Robyn Harvey, Bruce Harvey, Steve Smith, Melissa Smith, Carlos Moco

PLEASE LET US KNOW...If you or someone you know is ill or in the hospital, let the church office know so that we can help in their healing process through our prayers, visits, food preparation, etc. Thank you!

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY TO: Rob & Linda Wanagas and family on the death of Rob's sister, Barbara Wilson.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Carolyn Emme, Rick Loring (son of Dick Loring), Laura Gould (sister of Ed Youse), Doug Nemeth (son of Dot & Zollie Nemeth), Karen Pearce (mother of William Pearce), Susan Moody (daughter-in-law of Joan Moody), Jane Mertz, Barbara Lobe, Tom Bintliff, Jr. (friend of Doug Hamilton), Norman Adams (husband of Betty Adams), Ron Griffith, Kaelyn Joyce (granddaughter of Jack & Dorothy Schweitzer), Lissa Herman (friend of Carol Talbot), Bruce Simmons & Charlotte Froman (friends of Ed & Mary Lou Nelson), Janet Brown (friend of Carol Taylor), Rev. Richard Thawley, Sam Wang (cousin of Elite Law), Lynda Rodriguez (daughter of Bob Rodriguez), Lee Talbot, Mary Schick (friend of Linda Wanagas), Doug Carty, Becky Wentworth (friend of Linda Wanagas), Tom Bahnck (son of Thomas & Gloria Bahnck), Robb Murray, Kathryn Machamer (mother of Kathy Clawges), Doris Irwin (friend of Alice Brenner), Joe DeCesare (friend of Joyce Scheyhing), Gloria Despres (mother of Kristine Daglian), Gary Graham (father of Brad Graham), Mike Pilenza (friend of Greg Bryan & Dick Loring), Denny Flamini (son of Dennis Flamini).

SERVING OVERSEAS IN IRAQ: Specialist L. Colby Cooper, boyfriend of Abigail Sell.

The Staff of First United Methodist Church

Richard Nichols, Senior Pastor	Joan Flamini, Administrative Assistant
HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor	Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music	Devika Gill, Pre-School Director
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Ed.	Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator
Kathy Clawges, Youth Director	(CCLI License No. 782839)

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