

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 24, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF 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.

PRELUDE

Overture De Noel

arranged by Norm Dorrell

Kings Road Revival with Bruce Smith, Trombone; Aaron Moseley, Saxophone

Jim Blizard, Worship Leader

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

People: Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

Leader: The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presents, but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us—the gift of the Christ child.

People: Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

Leader: Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God's eternal love.

People: Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: The Bewley Family

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)

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS (by Nahum Tate) VERSES 1, 2, 6

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,

the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind.

"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all of human kind, to all of human kind."

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;

good will hence forth from heaven to earth begin and never cease, begin and never cease!" (Public Domain)

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR (by N. Regney, G. Shayne)

Said the night wind to the little lamb, Do you see what I see?

Way up in the sky, little lamb, do you see what I see?

A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite, with a tail as big as a kite.

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear?

Ringin' thru the sky, shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear?

A song, a song, high above the tree, with a voice as big as the sea, with a voice as big as the sea.

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, Do you know what I know?

In your palace warm, mighty king, do you know what I know?

A Child, a child shivers in the cold; Let us bring Him silver and gold, Let us bring Him silver and gold.

Said the king to the people ev'ry where, listen to what I say!

Pray for peace, people ev'ry where, listen to what I say! The Child; The Child, sleeping in the night;

He will bring us goodness and light, He will bring us goodness and light.

OPENING PRAYER - O God beyond time, we are an impatient people. As the days grow shorter and the darkness longer, teach us to wait with faithful expectation. In this time of worship, open our eyes and hearts to the Advent blessings in our midst. May every day be a day of gratitude for your compassion and grace. Through the guidance of your Spirit, lead each one of us in the pathways that make for peace. In the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, we pray. Amen.

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)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (by Christina Rossetti) VERSES 1 & 4

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part: yet what I can I give him: give my heart. (Public Domain)

BRINGING OUR NEEDS TO GOD

PRAYER RESPONSE: AWAY IN A MANGER (William J. Kirkpatrick) VERSE 2

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh. (Public Domain)

CHILDREN'S CHAT – Karen Murray

WE CELEBRATE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST - 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Silent Night

arranged by Lady Antebellum

Victoria McGrath, Rick McConnell, Tricia Halligan

SHARING THE WORD

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21

Message: God Became Human

Pastor HeyYoung Horton

CLOSING SONG JESUS, MESSIAH (Chris Tomlin)

He became sin, who knew no sin; that we might become His righteousness;

He humbled Himself, and carried the cross. Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Chorus: Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.

The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn. Love so amazing, love so amazing. *Chorus*

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You; all the glory to You, God, the Light of the word. (Repeat)
Chorus (2008 sixsteps Music)

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.

SCRIPTURE READER: Curt Diehl **ACOLYTE:** 9:30 Lucas Harsche

USHERS: Robyn Harvey, Bruce Harvey, Stephen Smith, Melissa Smith, Carlos Mocelo

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: Worship: 567 Sunday School: 48

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: The family of Rev. Richard Thawley, who passed away last week.
ALSO TO: Sandra Handal on the death of her mother Ethel Matthews.
PRAYER CONCERNS: Carolyn Emme, Rick Loring (son of Dick Loring), Doug Nemeth (son of Dot & Zollie Nemeth), Jane Mertz, Barbara Lobe, Norman Adams (husband of Betty Adams), Ron Griffith, Sam Wang (cousin of Elite Law), Lynda Rodriguez (daughter of Bob Rodriguez), Mary Schick (friend of Linda Wanagas), Robb Murray, Joe DeCesare (friend of Joyce Scheyhing), Gary Graham (father of Brad Graham), Mary Kate Canal (sister of Brian O'Donnell), Joanne Doto (friend of Gail Van Dyke), Carol LaFon, Carolyn Kinnard, Deanne Czeiner, Marie Newman (friend of Doug Hamilton), Ken Kunzman (friend of Dick Loring), Jane Emely-Roach, Linda Albert, Steve Murray (brother of Bob Murray), Matt Fasbinder (friend of Mary Raroha), Mary Raroha, Tyler Wilson and parents Mark & Karleen (relatives of Linda Wanagas), Raelee and Janet Shaw (relatives of Pattie Gritzan), Carol Murphy (friend of Dick Loring and Greg Bryan), Stephen Moyer (grandson of Ragnhild Banes), Tom Bintliff (friend of Doug Hamilton), Steve Heller, Allan Estrin, Janet Brown (friend of Carol Taylor), MaryJane Harris (Niece of Bob Rodriguez), Marlene Bell Taylor (daughter of Zorada).

The Staff of First United Methodist Church

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

Church Office Contacts

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