



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30 am Traditional

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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First United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

December 5, 2021 – 10:30 A.M.

Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome! Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. Whether you are a first-time visitor or long-time member, we're glad you are here. (*Stand, if able.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Respond in Bold)

A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Make God's paths straight.

Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight.

The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

All will see the salvation of God.

See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking.

The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!

*OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

Blessed is the Lord, and blessed are God's people to whom God sends a savior, the messiah, who is Christ the Lord. Blessed is our God, and blessed are God's gifts, that grace us with forgiveness and every good gift. Lord, you have come to dwell within us. Build your temple within our hearts. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*HYMN

"People, Look East"

UMH # 202

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Sela Finau

The Lord's Prayer

"Our Father, 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"

CHILDREN'S TIME

Tiffany Charles

*HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

UMH # 211

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Liturgist

God of mercy and grace, we pray that the gifts we offer this morning might be used to bring some compassion to the chaos that is our world. We give these gifts in love, hoping they will heal some of the hurting; and as they do, make the crooked road straight for the coming of the Christ. May the hills that separate us from sisters and brothers be made flat and may the valleys of our isolation be raised up, so we will be ready to welcome the Christ as one. In that holy name, we pray. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

UMH #881

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

***GLORY PATRI**

UMH #70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist

O Lord, darkness surrounds us like a cold stone tomb, until your light bursts into our lives like a clear, bright dawn. We cover our eyes, we're so unprepared for your coming. Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire, consuming all that it touches. How can we stand before you, Lord? The road that we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as a twisted, crooked path, blocked by a mountain of sin. Where can we turn? Who will guide us back to the way of peace—the way that leads to you? Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Liturgist

The Lord is merciful and forgiving, a great and compassionate savior. God rescues us from darkness and frees us from fear. Like a refiner's fire, the Lord makes us shine with the brilliance of the purest gold and silver. The one who began this work in us seeks to bring it to completion. May the day of Christ find us flawless and without blame.

Felicia Graves

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