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## ***FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

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**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**10:30 am Traditional**

# First United Methodist Church

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

December 3, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.

## First Sunday of Advent – Hanging of the Greens

*“Come close to God and He will come close to you.” James 4:8*

*(\* Stand, if able.)*

### MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please respond in bold)*

Liturgist: The Lord will fulfill all the promises given to God's people.

**People: Praise be to God.**

L: The days are coming when all shall be revealed.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

L: The signs of God's Good News are all around us.

**P: The darkness has overshadowed them.**

L: God will bring to us a new light for all generations.

**P: Open our eyes, Lord, to see your promises fulfilled. AMEN.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” *(verses 1-4; interlude between verses 2 and 3)*

UMH # 238

#### \*OPENING PRAYER *(In unison)*

Liturgist

**Lord, we can hardly believe it. The Advent season is upon us. We usually translate that into the buying season in preparation for THE BIG DAY. But Lord, when we place our hope in the tinsel, wrappings, tape and boxes, we forget the most glorious gift of all, the gift of God's love. Lord, open our hearts and our spirits today to behold God's love for us in the fulfillment of all God's promises. AMEN.**

#### SHARING GREETINGS *(Please greet someone that you do not know.)*

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE:

**Reading**

**Hanging of Chrismons**

**Prayer:** “Holy Lord, may this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.” Amen.

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE one:**

**Reading:** Isaiah 60:2-3

## **\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE CAROL**

“Light the Advent Candle” *(verse 1)*

TFWS # 2090

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER, BLESSING ON THE GIFTS**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SONG**

*See Insert*

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

## **OFFERTORY**

“Oh Holy Night”

Choir

## **\*DOXOLOGY**

Refrain – Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH # 238

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 1:22

Liturgist

“All this took place in order to fulfill what had been promised by the Lord.”

## **\*HYMN**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”  
*(verses 1 and 2; interlude between verses)*

UMH # 229

## **MESSAGE**

“Focusing on God’s Promise”

Pastor Yohan Baek

## **SERMON NOTES**

Note 1: Why does the Bible carry so much weight among the people of God?

Note 2: Every other religious book, whether the Koran or the Hindu scriptures, writes about events that happened in the past. But the Bible is the only religious book where **God said things before they happen.**

Note 3: Isaiah 7:14

“The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and she will name him Immanuel.”

Note 4: Micah 5:2

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Note 5: Luke 1:45

"Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished."

Note 6: Regardless of the circumstance they find themselves in the moment, **blessed people believe that what God says is going to happen.**

Note 7: Jeremiah 29:11-12

"I know the plans I have for you. They are plans to prosper you, not harm you. They are plans for a hope and a future.

Then you will come to me and **pray to me, and I will listen to you!**"

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **A COMMUNION PRAYER FOR ADVENT:**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, whose coming we celebrate in this advent season, we invoke your Spirit now in this bread and cup of salvation.

**People: Receive us in your grace and fill our hearts with great thanksgiving for every mercy we have received.**

Pastor: And when we have eaten and drunk of your gifts,

**People: Send us forth to our homes with new excitement to be your witnesses, that your coming may be felt not in our lives only, but in the lives of all those we know and love. Amen.**

### **\*SENDING HYMN**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

UMH # 234

*(verses 1 – 3; interlude between verses 2 and 3)*

### **\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Yohan Baek

### **\*POSTLUDE**

"Hallelujah Chorus"

*UMH (The United Methodist Hymnal – red hymnal)*

*TFWS (The Faith We Sing – black hymnal)*

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Yohan Baek, Pastor

Jeeyoung Baek, Pianist

Brian Gray, Liturgist

Marsha Beckermann, Communion Server

Julia Coward, Nursery Director & Children's Church

Robert & Tenny Swonke, Greeters

Jim Curik and Glynn Tucker, Ushers

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