



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 17, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.

Third Sunday of Advent

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

For more than 75% of Americans, Christmas is the most favorite time of the year. People want to come to church at Christmas. People are actually waiting for someone to ask them to come!!! People want to be asked. They want to be in church at Christmas!

(Stand, if able.)*

MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Through time and space, in the blink of the eye, the love of God stretched forth in the life of a young girl, asking that she be part of God's great plan of Salvation. Her name was Mary. She was not of wealth or power. She was a person, just like you and me.

People: Today we will learn of Mary and God's miracle.

We will be challenged to believe in all that God can do.

*OPENING HYMN

“The First Noel”

UMH # 245

(verses 1 – 4; interlude between verses 2 and 3)

*OPENING PRAYER *(In unison)*

Liturgist

Lord, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Lord, remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. Lord, we are called to proclaim hope, joy, love and peace in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Tiffany Charles

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE, THREE:

Reading: Isaiah 35:10

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE CAROL**

“Light the Advent Candle” *(verse 3)*

TFWS # 2090

***HYMN**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
(verses 1 – 4; interlude between verses 2 and 3)

UMH # 220

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SONG

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Follow the Star”

Choir

***DOXOLOGY**

“Gloria In Excelsis Deo”

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:30, 31, 34, 35, 38

Liturgist

30: And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.

31: And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall call his name Jesus.

34: And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no
husband?"

35: The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power
of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will
be called the Son of God.

38: “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.
“May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

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

Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear

A song, a song, high above the trees
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 everywhere,
listen to what I say

Pray for peace, people everywhere!
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

SERMON NOTES

Note 1: Life is an intersection between the divine and the human.

Note 2: About 90% of our brain is subconscious.

Note 3: We know very little about the intersection between God and people.

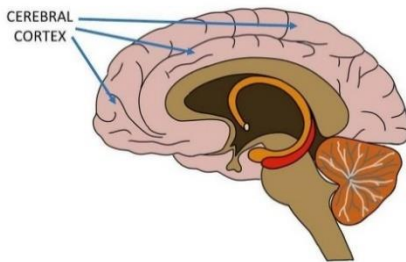
Note 4: Luke 1:30, 31 and 34

30: And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31: And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

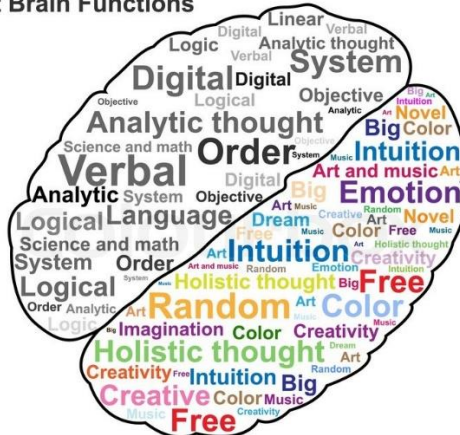
34: And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no husband?"

Note 5:

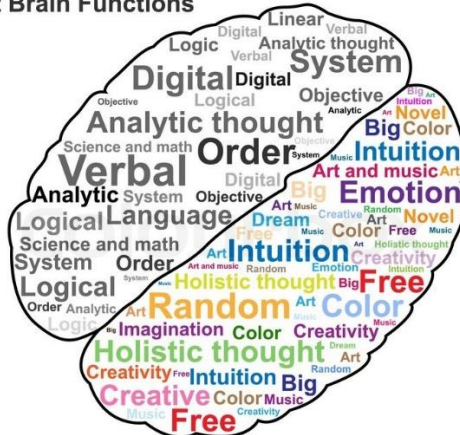


The brain’s cerebral cortex is the outermost layer that gives the brain its characteristic wrinkly appearance. The cerebral cortex is divided lengthways into two cerebral hemispheres connected by the corpus callosum. Each hemisphere is associated with different functions.

Left Brain Functions



Right Brain Functions



Note 6: Our spiritual life goes way beyond logical thinking. It demands the WHOLE brain. We need a shift from part of brain to whole brain.

Note 7: Luke 1:35

"The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of God will overshadow you.'"

Note 8: Luke 1:38

"I am the servant of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!"

Note 9: John 3:8

"The wind blows where it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going.

Note 10: The Spirit of God is not something we can understand.
The Spirit of God is something we can only EXPERIENCE.

Note 11: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC9hh-3zlQY>
(please watch this video at your home)

Note 12: Spirit moves matter.
But matter doesn't move spirit.

Note 13: Isaiah 30:21

"You will hear a voice behind you saying,
"This is the right way. You should go this way."

***SENDING HYMN**

“O Holy Night”

[Verse 1]

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

[Verse 3]

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim

***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

Julia Coward, Nursery Director & Children’s Church

Robert & Tenny Swonke, Greeters

Jim Curik and Glynn Tucker, Ushers

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

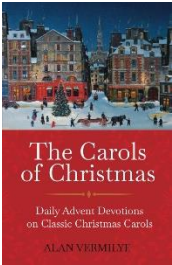
Christmas Eve Service:

Join us on **Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 PM** for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Please note that there will only be an evening service on Christmas Eve.

Adult Sunday School:

Adult Sunday School will meet at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee will be served. Our Bible study will be based on the church lectionary calendar readings. Please bring your favorite translation of the Bible to the study, so that we can share and compare from the different translations of God's Word.

December Devotional:



For the month of December, Pastor Baek is encouraging everyone to read the devotional: The Carols of Christmas by Alan Vermilye. This book is available on Amazon for \$9.99. If you need help with purchasing a copy, please contact the church office and we will get a copy ordered for you.

Fellowship Luncheon:

Please mark your 2024 calendar for **Sunday, January 28 at 11:30 AM**. We will honor our newest member: Ivene Parker, and gather for food and fellowship. Please bring a dish or dessert to share if you are able. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Happy Birthday:

Roger Swonke ~ December 17
Julie Blake ~ December 17
Raymond Beckermann ~ December 20
Eldon Ball ~ December 21