



# FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

DECEMBER 24, 2024 – 7:00 PM



First Church is a community  
growing in grace and reaching out with love.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

*With joy we welcome your presence today, wherever you are.  
Please join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship together.*

**Prelude** ..... Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries and Principal Organist

### *Three Versets on “Away in a Manger”*

Mark Blatchly (b. 1960)

### *Prelude on “Whence is that goodly fragrance?”*

Harrison Oxley (1933-2009)

### *Partita on “In dulci jubilo”*

James Vivan (b. 1974)

**Register Your Attendance**

**Welcome**

**Words of Inspiration**

“Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.”

~ Janice Maeditere



• **Call to Worship.** . . . . . Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Come to the story, with hearts open wide.  
Lean into the mystery. Believe in the miracles.  
Experience the Joy. Feel the love.  
**The story is ours,**  
    **a story wrapped in hope and peace.**  
Come to the story, with hearts open wide.  
The angels are singing. The stars are shining.  
The Christ is born for us, for all.  
**Come to the story, with hearts open wide.**  
**The good news is for you, for all.**

• **Processional Hymn #234: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*** (vs. 1-3, 6)

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|---|--|
| 1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,<br>O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.<br>Come and behold him, born the King of angels: | 3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;<br>O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!<br>Glory to God, all glory in the highest;      |
| 2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,<br>lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;<br>Son of the Father, begotten, not created;    | 6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,<br>Jesus, to thee be all glory given.<br>Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: |

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

**Lighting of the Christ Candle** . . . . . Amelia Buluran, Carolina Buluran and Angelito Galicinao

We light the Christ candle for all those who need hope, love, joy and peace.  
We pray together:  
**May hope's light shine on the path that takes us out of darkness toward home.**  
**May love's light reveal a place of belonging, where we are embraced by love and acceptance.**  
**May joy's light spark generosity in our words, actions, and dreams.**  
**May the light of peace spread from heart to heart until all dwell secure.**  
**May these gifts of Christ be born again in our hearts today and every day.**

**Anthem** . . . . . Chancel Choir; Brian Woods-Lustig, director

*In freezing winter night*  
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Behold, a silly tender babe, in freezing winter night, In homely manger trembling lies Alas, a piteous sight! The inns are full; no man will yield This little pilgrim bed. But forced he is with silly beasts In crib to shroud his head. This stable is a Prince's court, This crib his chair of State;	The beasts are parcel of his pomp, The wooden dish his plate. The persons in that poor attire His royal liveries wear; The Prince himself is come from heav'n; This pomp is prizèd there. With joy approach, O Christian, Do homage to thy King, And highly praise his humble pomp, wìch he from Heav'n doth bring.
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**Pastoral Prayer.** . . . . . Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

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.

Hymn #230: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs. 1-2)

1. 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.

2. 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!

First Lesson: *Luke 1:26-35* . . . . . Brenda Martin

Hymn #218: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (vs. 1, 4)

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Second Lesson: *Matthew 1:18-25* . . . . . Greg Cobb

Anthem . . . . . Chancel Choir

*Up! good Christen folk, and listen*  
George Woodward (1848-1934)

Ding-dong, ding: Ding-a-dong-a-ding.  
Up! good Christen folk, and listen  
How the merry church bells ring,  
And from steeple bid good people  
Come adore the new-born King:  
Tell the story how from glory  
God came down at Christmas-tide,

Bringing gladness, chasing sadness,  
Showering blessings far and wide,  
Born of mother, blest o’er other,  
*Ex Maria Virgine,*  
In a stable (‘tis no fable),  
*Christus natus hodie.*

Third Lesson: *Luke 2:1-7* . . . . .Ken Packer

Hymn #219: *What Child Is This* (vs. 1-2)

1. 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?
2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

*Refrain:*  
*This, this is Christ the King,*  
*whom shepherds guard and angels sing;*  
*haste, haste to bring him laud,*  
*the babe, the son of Mary.*

Fourth Lesson: *Luke 2:8-20* .....Lori West

Hymn #238: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs. 1, 3)

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

*Refrain:*  
*Gloria! In excelsis Deo!*

Homily: “*What is This Good News?*” ..... Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Anthem ..... Chancel Choir

*Sussex Carol*  
Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring:  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.  
Then why should we on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
Then why should we on earth be sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin He set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place,  
When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and we with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and forevermore. Amen.”

Worship Through Gifts & Offerings. ....Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

Offertory Anthem ..... Chancel Choir

*In the bleak mid-winter*  
Harold Darke (1888-1976)

In the bleak midwinter frosty winds 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.  
Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed.  
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.  
Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay:

Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.  
Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but only his mother in her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.  
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.

Distribution of the Light

Hymn #239: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

1. Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
*Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

2. Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
*Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!*
3. Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
*Jesus Lord at thy birth;  
Jesus Lord at thy birth.*

4. Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light!  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King!  
*Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!*

Benediction ..... Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

• Recessional Hymn #246: *Joy to the World*

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love.

• Postlude

*Carillon on "Antioch"*  
Mary Beth Bennett (b. 1954)

*(Please place your candle in the box at the door as you leave the Sanctuary.)*

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Connect with the First Church community here!

Worship online: each week via [www.fumcsd.org/watch-live](http://www.fumcsd.org/watch-live) or subscribe to our YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/@FirstChurchSanDiego](http://www.youtube.com/@FirstChurchSanDiego).

Drop in early or stay online late to catch upcoming events in our pre- and post-worship announcements loop.

Stay up to date with all the happenings via the weekly eNEWS. To subscribe visit [www.fumcsd.org/enews](http://www.fumcsd.org/enews) or text FUMCSDNEWS to 22828.

### FIRST CHURCH WELCOMES YOU IF...

*You are single, married, divorced, gay, transgender, filthy rich, dirt poor, o no habla inglés,*

*You are a crying newborn, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds,*

*You can sing like Aretha Franklin or cannot carry a tune in a bucket,*

*You're "just browsing", just woke up, or you just got out of jail,*

*You've been a Methodist your whole life or haven't been in church except for your little niece's baptism years ago,*

*You've got an AARP card but have yet to grow up, or you're a teenager growing up, too fast.*

*We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, tree huggers, latte-sippers, vegans, junk-food eaters,*

*We welcome those who are in recovery or struggling with addiction,*

*We welcome you if you're having problems or if you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," this church is for you,*

*If you blew all your money in Vegas, you're welcome here,*

*We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, those who work too hard, those who don't work,*

*can't spell or found us because Grandma wants you to go to church,*

*We welcome all those who are inked, pierced or both,*

*We welcome you if your ancestors arrived in chains, below the decks, captained those ships, or have been on this land since the beginning of time,*

*We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now (all of us could use a prayer right now),*

*We'd also like to welcome you if you had religion shoved down your throat, or you got lost on YouTube somehow and ended up here by mistake.*

*We welcome tourists, seekers, doubters, bleeding hearts...and you!*

*May the Peace of Christ, which passes all understanding be with you this day, and all the days going forward.*



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of SAN DIEGO

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO • IN MISSION SINCE 1869

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