

# WELCOME

We are glad you're here. Please sign our register to let us know that you're visiting, so our members can make you feel at home.



**WE'RE SO GLAD YOU ARE JOINING US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!** If you have any questions about Sunday morning activities & Worship or you would like more information about how you can be involved in the life of First United Methodist Church, Shreveport:

- Ask one of our wonderful ushers or volunteers in the Welcome Center. They'd be glad to help!
- Call the church office at 318.424.7771. We're open 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday - Thursday and 8:30am - 4:00pm on Friday.

## HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

We'd love to stand alongside you in prayer! Please share your prayer request with us by placing this form in either prayer box at the Sanctuary entrance.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like our Director of Prayer Ministry to reach out to you about this request?  Yes  No

## Poinsettia MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

During the Christmas Season, if you would like to have a poinsettia placed at the church in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend, **please complete the form below & return it to Beth LeBlanc in the church office by December 7, 2020.** The cost is \$12 per plant. Checks should be made payable to First United Methodist Church.

(Please Print) From: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Memorials & honorariums will be listed in the worship bulletin on Dec. 20.

## Our Heritage in Stained Glass

“Virgin with lamp”— “Be Ye Also Ready” Matthew 24:44

In loving memory of Our Idolized Daughter, Maude Lucile Atkins” August 10, 1886 - October 13, 1910. The center panel in this second window from the front on the right depicts a virgin with a lighted lamp. This beautiful window takes on deeper meaning when one realizes that in the central figure the artist has incorporated the face of the lovely young woman for whom the memorial was given in 1913.

## JOYS & CONCERNS

**HOSPITALIZED:** Bill Towery, Jennifer Mahoney

**DISCHARGED:** Evelyne Taylor, Brad Petree

**SYMPATHY** is extended to the family & friends of Kay Sutton in her death, and the family & friends of Mary Sledge in her death.

**THE LITURGICAL BANNER FOR ADVENT** is given to the glory of God and in honor of Will and Julia Ann Andress by the Margaret Hooper Smith Family.

**THE WHITE POINSETTIAS UNDER THE CROSS** are given in memory of Mary Edna Adams Brossette and Dianne Rose McCollum Brossette by their families.

**THE RED ROSE** near the altar honors those serving in the armed forces at home

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

**Lela Tucker**

from Susan Dodd

**Scott Teekell**

from Susan and Mike Adams

**Patty Lindsey**

from Susan and Mike Adams

Mary Anne Shemwell

Mr. and Mrs. James Goins

Velda McCormick

Sheila and Tommy Berry

**Mary Boggs**

from Lyndell Hollingsworth

Dr. and Mrs. Don Mitchell

**Myra Beeson**

from Lyndell Hollingsworth

~Honorarium~

**Dr. Pat Day**

from Lyndell Hollingsworth

## VITAL SIGNS

Contributions	Week Ending 11.29.20	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Goal	\$57,868	\$289,340	\$3,455,667
Received	\$39,048	\$326,660	\$3,481,845
Over/(Under)	(\$18,820)	\$37,320	\$26,178



WE ARE A STEPHEN MINISTRIES CARING CONGREGATION. *If you are in need of personal prayer, we have Stephen Ministers available to listen and pray with you. A Stephen Minister will be at the altar by the left door at the end of each service.*

Senior Pastor: Dr. R. Pat Day • Executive Pastor: Rev. Derek Joyce

Associate Pastor: Dr. Ashley Goad • Associate Pastor: Rev. Erik Rasmussen • Pastor of Senior Adult Ministry: Dr. Carl E. Rhoads

Director of Music: Dr. David Hobson • Director of Fine Arts: Dr. Will K. Andress • Principal Organist: E. Ray Peebles

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES:** 8:30am & 11:00am, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC at 11:00am  
**FAITHLINK CONTEMPORARY SERVICE:** 11:00am • **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 9:45am  
**WESLEYAN COMMUNION SERVICE:** 9:45 – 10:30am, FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IN COUCH CHAPEL

318.424.7771 office • 318.429.6888 fax • **PRAYER LINE:** 318.429.6898 **TOLL FREE:** 1.888.393.PRAY  
 www.firstshreveport.org • fumc@fumcshreveport.org

# FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT

DECEMBER 6, 2020 · SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. LEAD.

# Celebration of Worship

## Second Sunday of Advent - December 6, 2020

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE: 11:00 AM, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC at 11:00 AM

PRELUDE.....*Divinum Mysterium* .....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
[Of the Father's Love Begotten] Julia Clancy, viola  
and  
*Christmas Dawn*  
Raymond H. Haan

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. Ashley Goad

INVOCATION & CALL TO WORSHIP.....Dr. Ashley Goad

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”.....No. 196

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Debby Williams

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ..... Gene & Sarah Hilliard  
Quinton, Conrad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Shepherd's Dance*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
Richard Elloitt

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Colossians 1:24-27.....Debby Williams  
See scripture reading on Text Page

‡

† GLORIA PATRI  
*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.*

‡

JOYS & CONCERNS.....Dr. Pat Day

MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

*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 OF PREPARATION.....“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”.....No. 182  
Stanzas 1-2

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Debby Williams

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.....Julia Clancy, viola  
arr. John Ferguson Wesleyans

† Doxology .....VENI EMMANUEL  
*Praise God, from whom blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Luke 2:1-7.....Dr. Pat Day  
See scripture reading on Text Page

MESSAGE.....**THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF HOPE**.....Dr. Pat Day

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION.....“O Little Town of Bethlehem”.....No. 230  
*(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family  
are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)*

BENEDICTION .....Dr. Pat Day

SENDING FORTH.....*O Holy Child of Bethlehem*.....Wesleyans  
FOREST GREEN

POSTLUDE.....*Fanfare on MENDELSSON*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
arr. Alec Wyton



*Crucifer:* Kensey Scoggin; *Acolytes:* Sasha Anderson, Camille Wood

† Those who are able may stand. ‡ Latecomers may be seated at these times.

# Sermon Notes

THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF HOPE

LUKE 2:1-7

I. First, the journey from despair to hope is based upon the indestructibility of truth.

II. Second, the journey from despair to hope is based upon the fact that God is still in control; He is still on the throne.

III. Third, the journey from despair to hope is based upon adjusting your old hopes and dreams to new realities.

IV. Fourth, the journey from despair to hope is based upon living by faith and not fate.

V. Finally, the journey from despair to hope is based upon believing that God is faithful even when things don't make sense.

# Hymns

## December 6, 2020

### Hymn of Praise No. 196 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

#### Stanza 1

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

#### Stanza 2

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

### Hymn of Preparation No. 182 “Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

#### Stanza 1

Word of God, come down on earth,  
Living rain from heaven descending;  
Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
Faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you;  
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

#### Stanza 2

Word Eternal, throned on high,  
Word that brought to life creation.  
Word that came from heaven to die,  
Crucified for our salvation.  
Saving Word, the world restoring,  
Speak to us, your love outpouring.

### Hymn of Invitation No. 230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#### Stanza 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.

#### Stanza 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!

#### Stanza 3

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

#### Stanza 4

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**Affirmation of Faith**

**No. 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.

# Scripture and Creeds

## December 6, 2020

**Colossians 1:24-27**

**Final Exhortations**

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**Luke 2:1-7**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.