

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Celebration of Worship — *First Sunday of Advent* — November 29, 2020

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PRELUDE....*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*. BWV 659....E. Ray Peebles, organ  
[Savior of the Nations, Come]  
Johann Sebastian Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. David Hobson

INVOCATION & CALL TO WORSHIP.....Dr. David Hobson

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“O come, O come, Emmanuel” .....No. 211

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE .....David & Emily Hobson  
Hannah, Landry, Andrew

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Light of the Star*.....Thomas Souther, tenor  
with *Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus* Charlie Roppolo, baritone  
arr. Camp Kirkland and Tom Fettke

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Philippians 4:4-9.....Debby Williams  
See scripture reading on Text Page

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† 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.*

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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.....“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”.....No. 218

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Soon and Very Soon*.....Men's Ensemble  
Andrae Crouch/arr. Jack Schrader Robert Cruz, piano

† 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.....Isaiah 9:2,6.....Dr. Pat Day  
See scripture reading on Text Page

MESSAGE.....**THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF INNER PEACE**.....Dr. Pat Day

I. First, refuse to allow anxiety, fear and worry to become a “state of being” in your life.

II. Second, cast all your cares on the Lord - yield total control of every area of your life to God.

III. Third, choose to live in today, not in the past or tomorrow.

IV. Fourth, take charge of your thinking by staying in the Word and maintaining your focus on the Lord.

V. Finally, ask for and receive the gracious gift of inner peace in order to equalize the pressures of the world.

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION... “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”....No. 206  
(*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 Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.....Men’s Ensemble  
[Excerpt]  
VENI EMMANUEL

POSTLUDE.....*Fugue on “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”*.....Robert Cruz, organ  
Hugo Distler



**Banner Carrier:** Luke Smith; **Crucifer:** Gillian Barrett; **Acolytes:** Lily Norris,  
Max Henry Smith

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

Hymn of Praise No. 211  
“O come, O come, Emmanuel”

[Stanza 1]

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

[Stanza 2]

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And cause us in her ways to go.

[Refrain]

[Stanza 3]

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

[Refrain]

[Stanza 4]

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,  
An ensign of thy people be;  
Before thee rulers silent fall;  
All peoples of thy mercy call.

[Refrain]

**Hymn of Preparation No. 218**  
**“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**

[ Stanza 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.

[Stanza 2]

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

[Stanza 3]

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!

[Stanza 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.

**Hymn of Invitation No. 206**  
**“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

[Stanza 1]

I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

[Refrain]

In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart Lord Jesus.

[Stanza 2]

I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father.

[Refrain]

[Stanza 3]

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

[Refrain]

**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.

## Philippians 4:4-9

### Final Exhortations

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Isaiah 9:2, 6**

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

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For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.