

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent - December 14, 2025

ORCHESTRAL PRELUDE (10:45) *A Christmas Festival* FMC Orchestra

Leroy Anderson

Fantasia on Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan Williams/arr. David Stone

March of the Kings

[“Farandole” from *L’Arlésienne Suite No. 2*]

George Bizet

INTROIT *Gloria* FMC Choirs

[Mvt. 1 - Excerpt]

FMC Brass

John Rutter

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION Rev. Kathy Wafer

† HYMN OF PRAISE “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” No. 180

Stanzas 1-3

[Setting by John Rutter]

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 691 Dr. David Hobson

(**Children may leave for Children’s Chapel at this time.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Jeff and Laura Pearson

Campbell, Vincent, Allen, and Odelle

MUSICAL OFFERING *What Child is This?..* FMC Choirs

arr. Keith Christopher

FMC Strings

MORNING PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Emily Blair

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE.....No. 192, 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!*

MUSICAL OFFERING *Hope of Israel* Dr. Alison Beck, piano

Michael W. Smith/arr. Matt Riley FMC Orchestra

† DOXOLOGY VENI EMMANUEL

*Praise God, from whom all 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..... Luke 1:39-56..... Dr. Steven Bell

MESSAGE **Brought to Light: JOY** ... Dr. Steven Bell

MUSICAL OFFERING

Mary Did You Know? Nina Guerrero, soprano

arr. Craig Courtney

FMC Choirs

FMC Orchestra

† HYMN.....“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”Text Below

[setting by Stuart Forster]

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.
From God our heav’nly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.
The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway, this blessed babe to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.
But when to Bethlehem they came, where at this infant lay,
They found Him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
His Mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.
Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and charity each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth efface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.
(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.)*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERSDr. Steven Bell

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to the congregation of First Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

† **BENEDICTION** Dr. Steven Bell

† **SENDING FORTH** *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* FMC Choirs

John Rutter FMC Orchestra

POSTLUDE *Sleigh Ride* FMC Orchestra

Leroy Anderson

FMC CHOIRS

Chancel Choir

Dr. David Hobson, director
E. Ray Peebles, organist

Texas Street Singers

Dr. Will Address, director
Dr. Alison Beck, pianist

FMC ORCHESTRA

Flute

Sally Horak
Rebecca Murphy

Oboe

Theresa Zale Bridges
Dan Howdeshell

Clarinet

Jake Hale
Luke Nelson

Bassoon

Kristoff Hairr
Amelia Natal

Horn

Thomas Hundemer
Halee Roberts
Suzanne Causey
Ned James

Trumpet

Mike Scarlato
Noah Rampmaier
Kevin Rabon

Trombone

Jeremy Dowden
Todd Warren
John Mark Thompson

Tuba

Zack Palm

Timpani

Chan Teague

Percussion

Anthony Robinson

Violin I

Laura Crawford
Elizabeth Beck
Ivy Joseph

Violin II

Dan Santelices
Emily Owens
Mollie Rice

Viola

Michele Gunn
Adrienne Gabriel
Parker Hoffman

Cello

Ruth Drummond
Brett Andrews

Bass

Eric Gardner