

**PRELUDE** Donna Banes

**WELCOME** Pastor Gina Hendrickson

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Nadine Mack

L: They say all is calm and all is bright,  
**P: But our spirits toss and turn, and our hearts are not glad.**  
L: They say angels echo a joyous strain,  
**P: But our thoughts are looping on what we have lost.**  
L: They say a place was made in a manger for a wondrous Child,  
**P: But there are empty spaces in our beds, vacant chairs in our workplaces; we reach for the phone to call a familiar voice that will not answer.**  
L: We have anger and sadness towards what should not yet be gone.  
**P: Illness, hunger, lack of clean water, and war break bodies and spirits. So much seems to be wrong with the world.**  
L: Our grief is love with nowhere to land.  
**P: The collective grief of the world is too much to comprehend, so we speak the names of the ones we know.**  
**ALL: We light candles for all this love we still have burning. Come, Lord Jesus. Come near to the brokenhearted.**

**CENTERING HYMN #707** Hymn of Promise

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** Pastor Gina & Nadine  
Pastor Gina: We light our first candle, a single light that the deepest darkness cannot conquer – small, insignificant, but a sign of hope.  
**People: Let it speak to us of the tiny flame of hope buried within us – the stubborn little light that refuses to be extinguished by all that life has thrown at it.**  
**Solo: “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (verse 1)**  
**Silence**

Nadine: We light our second candle, a companion to the first – equally small – equally insignificant – but witnessing to the hope that another light brings.

**People: Let it speak to us of the lights of companionship – of our families and our friends, of strangers, and kindnesses found in unexpected places that restore our hope in human nature.**  
**Solo: “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (verse 2)**  
**Silence**

Pastor Gina: We light our third candle recalling nights of watching and waiting– sleepless, anxious when dawn seemed to ebb further from the horizon and hope seemed forlorn.

**People: Let it speak to us of the sureness of morning - of the passing of the darkness of suffering – and the promise of an eternal sunrise dawning for those we have loved and lost, and dawning for us even in the midst of so much loss – though we may yet be in that darkest hour before the dawn.**  
**Solo: “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (verse 3)**  
**Silence**

Nadine: We light our fourth candle, which will remind us of the closeness of Christmas – a time of peace and joy we may not ourselves feel able to welcome – as our spirits dwell in the dark of our heart’s winter season.

**People: Let it speak to us of hope – of being together in this place of healing – of our companionship this day as we come closer to the turning of the year – of faith that we and those we have loved and lost are held eternally in the hand of the One who brought light into being – of hope that in the struggles we go through we are not alone. There is One who knows each of us by name.**

**HYMN #206** I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light (verse 3)

**SCRIPTURE READING** Revelation 21:1-7 Nadine

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Pastor Gina & Nadine

*You are invited to come, light candles & name your loved ones.  
Pastor Gina & Nadine are available for prayer and anointing with oil  
at each side rail, after you have placed your candle if you so desire.*

Let us pray together...

**Comforting God, wrap us in Your presence in this time of remembrance. With these candles, help us find Your light, a light that will guide us day-by-day, step-by-step, as we try to live life fully and wholly. We cherish the special ways in which our loved ones have touched us. We thank you for the gift their lives have been to us. Now comfort us. Encourage us. Empower us.**

**We pray all of this in the name of Jesus who taught us to say together “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.**

## BENEDICTION

Pastor Gina

The First Christmas was not a Merry Christmas, but it was a blessed Christmas. May your Christmas be blessed with Christ's love and hope born in your heart now and forevermore. And may you know deep in your core that God loves you without end. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

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### *Worship Leaders:*

*Rev. Dr. Gina Hendrickson*

*Donna Banes, Pianist,*

*Nadine Mack-Congregational Care & Connection Team Minister*

## HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE of COMFORT and PEACE



### **First Methodist Church**

A United Methodist Community

In Moorestown, New Jersey

LOVE GOD ~ REACH PEOPLE ~ SERVE ALL

Sunday, December 14, 2025

3:00 P.M.