

together, so that all may see and know, all may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

— Isaiah 41:17-20

Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful" vs 1 - 3 UMH 234

### Presentation of the Manger Scene

Leader:

Here in this place we prepare for the coming of the Lord.  
Here we will remember his Advent, his birth in Bethlehem,  
weak and helpless as an infant.

And here we rekindle our prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus"  
as we await his coming as the bright and morning star.

Reader:

A reading from the book of Revelation, Chapter 22:

"See, I am coming soon ... I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those  
who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter  
the city by the gates. "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the  
churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

— Revelation 22:12-14, 17

Closing Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful" vs 4 – 6 UMH 234

Benediction

Choral Benediction "Shine Jesus Shine" Chancel Choir

Taking out the Cross of Christ

Postlude William Elliott

## *First United Methodist Church* *Hanging of the Greens Service* *Sunday, November 25, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.*

Prelude William Elliott

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Call to Worship "Holy Ground" Chancel Choir

Bringing in the Cross of Christ

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader:

In the days to come the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hill; all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say:

**All:**

**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us  
God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."**

— Isaiah 2:2-3

Leader:

Bring branches of cedar and holly, bring evergreens and a  
pine tree, hang wreaths and garlands.

**All:**

**Make the church fragrant with the smell of creation and  
your Holy Delight. In acts of hanging greens  
and listening to the words of prophets and seers  
let us make our hearts and this space  
a place of inward and outward preparation  
for the One who comes to give us second birth.**

**Opening Prayer in Unison:**

**Good Lord, by your mercy**

**guide our outward actions in such ways**

**that our inward being is formed in faith, hope, and love.**

**May the decorations we offer**

**engage our senses during the days of Advent  
and enliven our praise and worship,  
in the name of the child of Bethlehem,  
our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs 1, 4, 6, 7 UMH 211

### **Presentation of Wreaths on the Church Doors**

#### **Responsive Reading:**

Leader:  
Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up,  
O ancient doors! that the Ruler of glory may come in.

**All:  
Who is the Ruler of glory?**

Leader:  
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

**All:  
Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
That the Ruler of glory may come in.**

Leader:  
Who is this Ruler of glory?

**All:  
The Lord of hosts, the Lord is the Ruler of glory!**  
— Psalm 24:7-10

Receiving of God's Tithes and Offerings  
Offertory O Worship the King" vs 1, 2, 4, 5 UMH 73  
\*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 95

### **Presentation of Sanctuary Garlands and Wreaths**

Leader:  
How shall we make this place a reminder of our need of repentance  
and that faithfulness and integrity comes from God our maker and redeemer?

Reader:  
A reading from Hosea, Chapter 14:  
I will heal [my people's] disloyalty; I will love them freely,  
for my anger has turned from them.  
O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?  
It is I who answer and look after you.  
I am like an evergreen cypress;  
your faithfulness comes from me.  
Those who are wise understand these things;  
those who are discerning know them.  
For the ways of the LORD are right,  
and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.  
— Hosea 14:4, 8-9

Hymn "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH 196

### **Lighting of the Christmas Tree**

#### **Responsive Reading:**

Leader:  
God, the Holy One of Israel, is a God of comfort and compassion.  
With the Christmas tree we remember God's everlasting promises to the poor and  
needy.

**All:  
Isaiah spoke of God's making of the wilderness  
a place of blessing where water and plants, even pine trees,  
would manifest God's loving action to save and provide.**

Reader:  
A reading from the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 41:  
When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none,  
and their tongue is parched with thirst,  
I the LORD will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.  
I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will  
make the wilderness a pool of water,  
and the dry land springs of water. I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the  
myrtle, and the olive; I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine