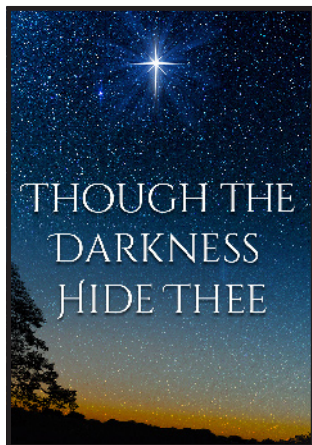


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent • Children's Church • December 18, 2016



SERVICE OF  
LESSONS & CAROLS

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WE GATHER

WELCOME

Tricia Lindley

PRELUDE Noel en Duo (Louis Claude D'Aquin)

Brass Quintet and Ty Woodward, Organ

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #250 United Methodist Hymnal – Once in Royal David's City

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

David Bremer, Lay Lector

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way.

**To give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Noel! Christ is born today. Glory to God. Noel!"

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Robert English

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship, for worship, and for service.

**Thanks be to God!**

*As a courtesy to others, please silence all cell phones/sound-making devices. \*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tricia Lindley

#2233 The Faith We Sing – Where Children Belong

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

*As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.*

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Arthur and Yvonne Dodd, Art Dodd, Jr.,  
Jim, Jill and Annika Dodd

*Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:*

**Living God, come to our world. May the light of Christ shine brightly—at the center of our lives, spreading warmth and light—in us, in this congregation, and everywhere. Amen.**

#217 UMH – Away in a Manger (verse 3)

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

*As the congregation sings, the children may go to Children's Church in the Chapel.*

## A TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. English

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

*Your generous gifts support the ministries and outreach of the church. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also place your Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card in the offering plate. Give online at any time at [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) or by using the QR code in the insert. Credit cards are now accepted at the Sunday Hospitality Table during Coffee Fellowship. Thank you. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts.*

### THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

Unto Us a Son Is Born (arr. Trevor Manor)

Unto us a Son is born; "Welcome, holy Stranger!" Let us go this happy morn and see Him in the manger. How can He be born on earth yet Lord of all creation? Still the oxen know His worth and kneel in adoration. 'Round the stable angels sing, and shepherds thrill to hear it! Mary treasures all these things within a humble spirit. Cradled in a stall was he amidst the cows and asses; But the very beasts could see that He all men surpasses. Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us, Lead us all with hearts aflame unto the joys above us. Alpha and Omega He! All heav'n and earth rejoices! Let us sing out merrily and join the angel voices! Unto us a Son is born!

\*RESPONSE #234 UMH – O Come, All Ye Faithful (verse 1)

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Keri Olsen

**O God, all the morning stars sang to you at creation. The angels praised you in song at the birth of your Son. May our offering be a true rendering of praise to you, speeding the time of peace on earth and goodwill among all your children. Amen.**

# Service of Lessons & Carols

## INTRODUCTION

Rev. Patricia Farris

**FIRST LESSON** Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7 (Pew Bible page 638, O.T.)

Rev. Farris

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**CAROL** #216 UMH – Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

**SECOND LESSON** Micah 5:2-5a (Pew Bible page 865, O.T.)

Rev. English

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**CAROL** #230 UMH – O Little Town of Bethlehem

**THIRD LESSON** Luke 1:26-35, 37-38 (Pew Bible pages 56-57, N.T.)

David Bremer

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**CAROL** #239 UMH – Silent Night, Holy Night

**FOURTH LESSON** Luke 2:1-7 (Pew Bible page 58, N.T.)

Rev. Olsen

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**CAROL** #221 UMH – In the Bleak Midwinter

**FIFTH LESSON** Luke 2:8-15 (Pew Bible page 58, N.T.)

Rev. English

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**CAROL** #238 UMH – Angels We Have Heard on High

**SIXTH LESSON** Matthew 2:1-11 (Pew Bible page 2, N.T.)

David Bremer

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**CAROL** #254 UMH – We Three Kings

**\* SEVENTH LESSON** John 1:1-14 (Pew Bible pages 91-92, N.T.)

Rev. Farris

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**\* CAROL** #240 UMH – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** In Thee Is Gladness (J.S. Bach)

Ty Woodward

*Worship concludes with the Postlude music which prepares us to transition from worship to life in the world.  
You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude concludes, or to exit quietly.*

—VISITORS: Welcome! As you leave worship, please take an Advent candle as our gift to you in this holy season.

—Please welcome our instrumentalists for today: Cathy Larson, flute; David Searfoss and Stephen Billington, trumpets; Jon Titmus, horn; Andrew Malloy, trombone; Beth Mitchell, tuba; Aaron Smith, percussion.

—As we gather for worship this morning, please see an usher if you need information or assistance.

—The Spiritual Formation Council invites you to pick up your Advent Devotional in the narthex, at the Sunday Hospitality Table or in the church office. Sign up to receive the daily email devotionals: [santamonicaumc.org/adventdevotionals2016](http://santamonicaumc.org/adventdevotionals2016).

—Nursery Care is available at 9 a.m. in Room 204 in the Education Building. Parents with young children are welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

—First UMC takes the care and safety of children seriously. We are a Safe Sanctuary congregation.

—A changing table is provided in the restroom located in the hallway west of the Fireside Room. Please see an usher for directions.

—Flowers at the Reredos: In loving memory of our mother Kathryn Fonda, from Carl & Carol Greenwood.

—To request prayers, you may fill in a Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card found in the pews, and drop it in the offering plate during worship.

—If there are Prayer Quilts on the north wall of the sanctuary, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilts.

—Stop by the Hospitality Table in Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center during Coffee Fellowship today for information, or to ask whatever might be on your mind! We're here to serve you.

—If you have not already done so, please fill out a 2017 giving card (which can be found in the pew racks) and place it in the offering plate during worship or deliver to the church office.

—Stop by the Fireside Room to enjoy the photography exhibit by Allan Walker. These photos were all used as program covers for Westside Ballet of Santa Monica's annual *Nutcracker* productions.

—Next Sunday: Worship at 10 a.m.; Christmas Day Family Service.

—Each time we worship, we collect food for the Westside Food Bank. In December bring peanut butters and other nut butters.

*Resident Bishop*

**Bishop Grant J. Hagiya**

*West District Superintendent*

**Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa**

*Senior Minister*

**Rev. Patricia Farris**

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*New & Emerging Ministries*

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[r.english@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:r.english@santamonicaumc.org)

*Chaplain in Residence*

**Rev. Keri Olsen**

[k.olsen@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsen@santamonicaumc.org)

*Director of Children & Youth Ministry*

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**Dr. James Smith**

*Organist*

**Ty Woodward**

*Lead Coordinator*

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*Head Custodian*

**Javier Espinosa**

God is real. God is love. ■ Every person matters. You matter. ■ Together we can change the world.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA**

1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) · 310-393-8258



THE  
MAGNIFICENT  
BEWILDERMENT  
OF STARS

## CHRISTMAS 2016

### CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

**December 24 - 4 p.m.** Children's Church & Youth

A "No Muss, No Fuss" Christmas Pageant for all ages.  
Costumes will be available at the door for all children to participate.



### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**December 24 - 11 p.m.** Choir, Organ, Harp & Candlelight

A beautiful annual service of light, music, and the Christmas story as read from scripture.



### CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE

**December 25 - 10 a.m.** Carols and the Christmas Story

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *of* SANTA MONICA  
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403  
[www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) · 310-393-8258 · [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org)

## WORSHIP

Every Sunday 10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**

Every Sunday 5 p.m. **simple church**

*Theme: the meaning is in the waiting—God is with us.*

## MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Today - 4th Sunday of Advent • Lessons & Carols • Children's Church**

11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, SH

11 a.m. Alternative Christmas, Alcove

11 a.m. Angel Tree Project (wrapped gifts due) Alcove

2:30 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, SH

6:15 p.m. UMYF Christmas Party, FR

**Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service, S

11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, S

11:59 p.m. - 1 a.m. College Students Reunion, FR

**Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

10 a.m. Christmas Day Worship, (Family Sunday, children remain in worship, no Sunday School) S

Church Campus Closed:  
December 26-30, January 2



## CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Children: Sunday School this Week**

December Theme: *The Stories of Christmas*

Bible Verse: Isaiah 9:6 "A child is born to us."

Anchor Point: We celebrate the birth of Jesus.

December 18: *Children's Church*

**UMYF This Sunday**

Info: Fireside Room, 6:15-8:30 p.m.

Program: Youth Christmas Party

## FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY

### Ending 2016 in Good Health

We look forward to everyone closing out their 2016 pledges. There's \$49k to go! Stop by the office, mail or make payment online via our church website. We will be accepting 2016 payments through the first week of January. Thank you for your support!

### DISCIPLE: Whole Hearted 2017

It's not too late to fill out & turn in your giving card for 2017. The church budget for 2017 depends on the pledges we receive. The giving card can be found in the pew racks, in the church office, and online.

### Santa Monica Nativity Scenes

Through January 6, the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes telling the life of Jesus Christ are on display at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church at Ocean Park Blvd. and 14th Street.

### Save the Date: January Mid-Week Recital

The first of the Music Program's 2017 Mid-Week recitals begins with Sean O'Neal, organ. This free concert is in the Sanctuary from 12:10 to 12:40 p.m. Wednesday January 11. Take a break from your day and spend your lunch hour listening to beautiful music!

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### Angel Tree Project - Return Gifts Today

First UMC is supporting Family Place of Upward Bound House with household items for the families and their apartments. Today is the last day to return wrapped gifts to the Angel Tree table during Coffee Fellowship.

### Alternative Christmas - Last Day Today

The Alternative Christmas Fair sponsored by the Missions Council offers the opportunity to make a gift in the name of a friend or loved one to one or more of local and global mission projects. Come by Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center after worship today to pick out your gift.

### Upward Bound House - Home Run for Kids 2017

Register now for the 5k/10k Walk/Run on February 12: [www.homerunforkids.com](http://www.homerunforkids.com).

### Haiti Mission Trip

Consider serving with the Haiti Mission Work Team March 3-12, 2017. Contact Rev. English: [r.english@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:r.english@santamonicaumc.org).

For our full calendar of this month's events, including weekly group meetings, pick up a copy of the Sentinel located in the Narthex, or go to our website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/calendar](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/calendar).