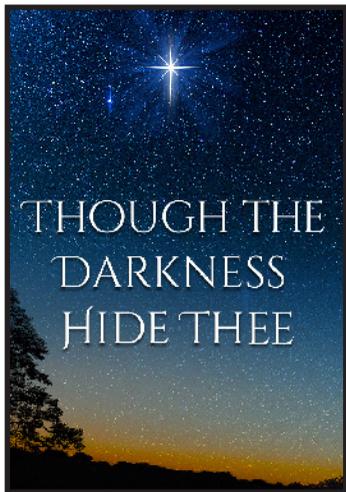


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent • Holy Communion • December 4, 2016



"What did you go out to the wilderness to see?"

– from Matthew 11:7-8

WE GATHER

WELCOME

Tricia Lindley

PRELUDE Sleepers Wake (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, Organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #209 United Methodist Hymnal – Blessed Be the God of Israel

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jamie Jones, Lay Lector

God calls us to a life of faithfulness and righteousness—

not by virtue of our own works, but by the grace of the One who began a great work in us.

Make straight the paths we now walk, O God, and shed your light upon our world.

Prepare us to prepare the way for Your reign of justice and love.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please greet those worshipping near you.

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

Witney, Angela and Henry Seibold

Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:

O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As this candle is lit, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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 their Sunday School classes.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Robert English

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

Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10 (Pew Bible page 663, O.T.)

Jamie Jones

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11 (Pew Bible page 11, N.T.)

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

HOMILY "Though the Darkness Hide Thee: What Do You Hope to See?"

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

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 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

Gloria *from* Gloria (Antonio Vivaldi)

Glory be to God on high.

*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. English

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and have bound us together in love. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will use the Musical Setting A on pages 17-18 in the United Methodist Hymnal. Gluten-free vegan wafers are available from the servers upon request. The Ushers will guide you in coming forward to receive the communion elements. You may pause at the kneeler to pray or be in silent prayer at your seat.

#247 UMH – O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

#196 UMH – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#204 UMH – Emmanuel, Emmanuel

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Tricia Lindley

God of grace, Child of peace, Spirit of truth, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. Work in us to make us ready, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for the light of Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

*HYMN #218 UMH – It Came upon the Midnight Clear

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Fugue in G Minor - *the "Little"* (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.

—After today's service, members of the Communion Server Ministry will be taking the communion elements to those who were unable to worship with us.

—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.

—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: Given to the glory of God, from donations to the First UMC Flower Fund. Please consider a gift to the Flower Fund, which will be used for Sundays such as today when flowers have not been ordered.

—Place your poinsettia orders and dedications at the Sunday Hospitality Table today or in the church office during office hours. The plants are \$12 each. Deadline to order is December 13.

—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.

—Next Sunday: Worship at 10 a.m.; 3rd Sunday of Advent; Rev. Patricia Farris will preach.

—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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Chaplain in Residence
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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 · 310-393-8258

December 4, 2016

by Linda Diane Anderson, Missions Council Chair



“Black Friday” sounds as if something terrible is coming – like a stock market crash or a natural disaster. It is pretty terrible, really – mailboxes brimming with ads heralding its coming, retailers selling on Thanksgiving Day to beat the competition, shoppers waiting in line before dawn to get deals on things they don’t need.

Missions Council has the antidote for “Black Friday” – the Alternative Christmas Fair. Each year, Missions Council prayerfully selects local and global mission projects. You may make a donation to any of the projects as a gift to a friend or loved one, and send a card announcing your gift:

1. **Actions of the Heart:** Empowers women to work in orphanages and to know the love of God through music and the Bible.
2. **InnerChange:** Helps the poor to transform their communities.
3. **Children Youth and Family Collaborative:** Tutors, mentors, and guides foster youth.
4. **Family Place and Family Shelter:** Shelters and serves homeless families.
5. **2017 Haiti Work Team:** Continuing our commitment to a missional relationship with the Haitian United Methodist Church.
6. **Heifer Project:** Supports self-reliance for families in developing countries.
7. **Harvest Home:** Houses and nurtures women in crisis pregnancies.
8. **The People Concern (OPCC/Lamp Community United):** This year OPCC joined with Skid Row’s Lamp Community to form a new agency, The People Concern, with the goal that all persons should be housed, healthy, and safe.
9. **UCLA Wesley Foundation:** UCLA Wesley Foundation serves UCLA students through weekly worship, community service, and fellowship.
10. **Habitat for Humanity Culver City Build:** Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles makes home ownership possible for hardworking, low-income families and individuals.

Sundays, December 4 /11/18, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH *of* SANTA MONICA
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Sundays at First UMC

- 9 a.m. Lectionary Scripture Discussion, FR
- 9 a.m. Partnership with God, Rm 101
- 9 a.m. Nursery Care, 204
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Warmup, CHR
- 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service, S
- 10:10 a.m. Sunday School, Education Bldg.
- 11 a.m. Fellowship, Courtyard
- 3 p.m. Amadeus Handbell Rehearsal, CHR
- 5 p.m. simple church, Chapel
- 6 p.m. UMYF, Youth Lounge

Today - 2nd Sunday of Advent • Holy Communion

- 11 a.m. Alternative Christmas, Alcove
- 11 a.m. Angel Tree Project, Alcove
- 5 p.m. simple church, Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. First UMC Christmas Concert, S/
Reception to follow, SH

Tuesday, December 6

- 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, FR

Wednesday, December 7

- 7 p.m. Methodist Foundation Meeting, CR-A

Saturday, December 10

- 10 a.m. Sacred Yoga, FR
- 4 p.m. Messy Church, Chapel/SH

Sunday, December 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 11 a.m. Alternative Christmas, Alcove
- 11 a.m. Angel Tree Project, Alcove
- 5 p.m. simple church, Chapel

Santa Monica Nativity Scenes

The Santa Monica Nativity Scenes will hold its 64th Annual Display from December 11 - January 6, 2017, presenting life-size scenes depicting biblical and traditional events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ.
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
1343 Ocean Park Blvd.



Highlights

First UMC Christmas Concert - Tonight!

First UMC's Music Ministry Director Dr. James E. Smith conducts **A Christmas Celebration**, featuring Giacomo Puccini's **Gloria** from *Messa di Gloria* for Choir and Chamber Orchestra, with William Grundler, tenor soloist, and the annual **An Evening of Carols, Etc.** with audience participation. Suggested donation at the door is \$10, seniors and children under 12, \$5. Childcare will be available. Tonight 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Reception to follow in Simkins Hall.

Angel Tree Project

First UMC is supporting Family Place of Upward Bound House with household items for the families and their apartments. Stop by the Angel Tree table during Coffee Fellowship to choose a gift. Then return the wrapped gift back to the church office by Sunday December 18. For questions, contact Chris Ruud: chr10is@yahoo.com.

simple church

Because a calm, centered, compassionate life is possible. Theme: *the meaning is in the waiting: transformation.* Tonight 5 p.m. in the Chapel.

Poinsettias

Beautiful poinsettias will once again grace our sanctuary for the Lessons & Carols Sunday service and Christmas Eve Services. Order at the Sunday Hospitality Table or in the church office. Each plant is \$12, and may be picked up after the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service or on Christmas Day. Deadline to order is December 13.

Sacred Yoga

Santa Monica yoga instructor Temitope leads Sacred Yoga, a monthly spiritual yoga class open to all. Bring a mat. Donations welcome. Saturday December 10, 10 a.m. Fireside Room.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a monthly worship where we learn about God's love through crafts, activities, story and a shared meal. Children, families, and adults of all ages are welcome to this worship experience. At Messy Church we grow in our relationship with God and with one another. December's theme: *Messy Christmas*. Invite your friends and family and be ready to get messy! Saturday December 10, 4 - 6 p.m. Chapel and Simkins Hall.