



**GOD
SO LOVES
THE
WORLD**

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2017

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PRELUDE – Christmas Music for Harp

Amy Wilkins, Harp

WORDS OF WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

Please fill out the attendance pad at your pew and pass it to your neighbors, then back down to the end.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #234 United Methodist Hymnal – O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1-3)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Lamb, Lay Lector

He came as a baby in a manger.

O come let us adore him.

He came in a lowly stable.

O come let us adore him.

Shepherds brought their worship.

O come let us adore him.

Angels sang his praise.

O come let us adore him.

Magi brought their gifts.

O come let us adore him.

What shall we do?

O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

* CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

Wolcum, Yole!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Anna, David, Thomas and Julia Rogers

Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:

Great God of love and light, we thank you now for the light of that special star that guided shepherds and wise men to the holy baby. Lead us now, by the light of your love, that we also may follow you to new life in him. Amen.

THE LESSON Isaiah 9:2b-4, 6-7

Michael Lamb

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

All My Heart This Night Rejoices (Trevor Manor)

Tim Battig, Horn

A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Rev. Robert English

UNISON PRAYER

O God our redeemer, when we have strayed from your paths, you light our way home. You send us your Holy One to guide the way. Let us follow in the way of your light, walking faithfully in the paths of justice and peace which lead to abundant life. Let the star of your hope touch our minds and hearts this night with bright beams of mercy and truth. May we find our way home to the fullness of your love for us, and for the whole creation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE Nowell, Nowell (Randall Thompson)

The Chancel Choir

THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

Ron Theile, Lay Lector

HYMN #221 UMH – In the Bleak Midwinter

RECEIVING OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Rev. English

We thank you for your generous support for the mission and ministries of the congregation. You will find an envelope in the pew rack for your Christmas Offering. The offering plates will be passed to gather our gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC." You will find church brochures at the Welcome Table as you leave the service. You may give online or find out more information at santamonicaumc.org.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Candlelight Carol (John Rutter)

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. English

O Holy God, in whom all hearts find welcome, we worship you this night with the simplest wonder. We are filled with love and hope because you offer us your life and your light. We offer back to you the gift of our hearts and our praise. May the birth of the Christ Child renew our lives and rekindle our hope. Amen.

HYMN #249 UMH – There's a Song in the Air

SERMON "God So Loves the World!"

Rev. Patricia Farris

MOMENTS OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION – Lighting of the Christ Candle

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The lights in the Sanctuary will be turned out. The minister will light her candle and the ushers will light their candles from hers. The ushers will then light the candle of the first person in each pew, and they in turn will light the candle of their neighbor and so on, until all the candles in the pew are lit. It is requested that no lit candles be tipped. Candles are to be extinguished at the conclusion of the service.

* HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night (see insert)

During the singing of the last stanza, the congregation will stand and hold their candles aloft.

* THE RINGING OF THE BELL

* HYMN Joy to the World (see insert)

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE A Trumpet Minuet (Alfred Hollins)

Ty Woodward, Organ

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

Rev. Patricia Farris, Senior Minister
Rev. Robert English, New & Emerging Ministries
Tricia Guerrero, Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Rev. Keri Olsen, Chaplain in Residence
Dr. James Smith, Music Director
The Chancel Choir
Ty Woodward, Organ
Lay Lectors: Michael Lamb, Ron Theile
Acolytes: Gwen and Tristan Warren
Crucifer: Owen Ing
A/V Engineer: Michael Grothe
Head Usher: David Mayhan

All children are welcome to worship. There is also an area labeled "Kids Zone" in the narthex that is open to all parents with small children if needed during tonight's worship. You may sit or play with your children and still hear the service from this area. A changing station is provided in the restroom in the hallway just west of the Fireside Room. Please see one of the ushers if you need assistance.

Welcome! We count it a privilege and a blessing to worship with you on this joyous Christmas Eve. If you come as a guest, we hope you will leave as a friend.

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

We express our appreciation to Mike Eskridge and the Seasonal Displays Committee for the special floral arrangements and greens that beautify the Sanctuary. If you dedicated poinsettias, you may take them home tonight.

Information about the ministries of our church is available just outside the Sanctuary doors at our Welcome Table. For more information about what we offer, or to contact one of our pastors or staff members, visit our church website at www.santamonicaumc.org, or call the church office.

First UMC takes the safety of the children and youth very seriously. We follow Safe Sanctuaries® practices, which is our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our children, youth, and adults.

We hope to see you again soon! Weekly Sunday Sanctuary worship services are at 10 a.m.; simple church meets every Sunday in the Chapel at 5 p.m., and Messy Church is a family worship service held monthly on the second Saturday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SANTA MONICA**

1008 Eleventh Street
Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org
310.393.8258
email: info@santamonicaumc.org



December 24, 2017



With the Sunday after Christmas falling on New Year's Eve this year, December 31, we have an opportunity to experience first-hand a worship service that had special significance for John Wesley. Starting in the mid-1750's, Methodist people observed a Watch Night or Covenant Service. While we normally think of New Year's as a time of making resolutions, the Covenant Service invites us to renew our covenant with God, whom Wesley called "Our Covenant Friend." Following a short homily, we will enter into a time of congregational prayers and covenant renewal led by our pastors. It is a deeply prayerful service, and it is our hope that it will be a true time of reflection and commitment as we begin a new year as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Next Sunday, December 31, 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

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WORSHIP & PRAYER**Sunday 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship**

Sanctuary Worship is our morning worship service of prayer and praise. Through Scripture and sermons, prayer, music, and sacrament, we gather to grow in faith, find comfort and support, enjoy fellowship, and glory in God's presence through the beautiful music of our Chancel Choir and organ. Children are welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids' Zone in the narthex.

Sunday 5 p.m. simple church

simple church meets in the Chapel, where we gather to cultivate calm, centered and compassionate lives which are possible by living by these rules: do no harm.....do good....stay in love with God.

Second Saturdays of the month 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Messy Church

An intergenerational worship experience where we learn about God's love through crafts, activities, story and a shared meal.

CHILDREN & YOUTH**Children's Ministry**

The Children's Ministry provides Sunday School classes, family programming and events throughout the year. Every third Sunday of the month, the children gather in the Chapel for song and movement, snacks and crafts, as they explore what the heart of worship is all about. Every fifth Sunday of the month, the children put their Faith in Action by working together during Sunday School to perform a loving act of service.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

The youth ministry at First UMC is a safe, Christ centered environment where youth explore and grow in their faith. Activities are designed to nurture relationships and build a strong, loving community. This is a place of acceptance, outreach and spirituality.

JANUARY FELLOWSHIP / COMMUNITY**January Mid-Week Recital**

The first mid-week recital of 2018 features Sal Soria, organ. These monthly concerts are free and open to the public and perfect for your lunch break. A short reception with the artist immediately follows. All are welcome.

Wednesday, January 10: 12:10 - 12:40 p.m., in the Sanctuary

January Messy Church Meet-Up

Instead of our traditional Messy Church in the Chapel and Simkins Hall, we will have an off-site, casual meet-up at Virginia Park.

Saturday, January 13 between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Baptismal Renewal & Installation of Lay Leaders

Baptismal Renewal is a special time of reflection on baptism and on our own baptismal experience. During this worship we will also recognize and install the new Church Leadership for 2018.

Sunday, January 14, Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m.

DanceFit

Dance your way to fitness with First UMC member Whitney Hagan, licensed Zumba instructor. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring a towel. Sponsored by the Health Ministry Council, the class is a great way to start your weekend. No charge.

Saturday, January 20, 10 - 11 a.m. Simkins Hall.

Youth/Scout Sunday

Come enjoy the annual Youth/Scout Sunday service. The youth of First UMC have the opportunity to lead the Sunday service, from reading scripture to preaching the sermons they have written. This day also celebrates the Scouting Ministries (Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) and their long-standing traditions of service to the community while transforming the lives of the youths.

Sunday, January 28, Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast 7 a.m. - 1 p.m., Simkins Hall

To view the First UMC calendar of events, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/upcoming-events

CHR = Choir Room; CR = Conference Room; CY = Courtyard; FR = Fireside Room; L = Library; MH = Member's Home; OS = Off Site; S = Sanctuary; SH = Simkins Hall; WR = Work Room (UMW)

JANUARY FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Family Place Community Meal

Going on its second year, simple church hosts the monthly potluck Community Meal with Family Place. The Community Meal potluck is an opportunity to help feed about 30-40 adults & children, served buffet style. Attending the potluck not only provides a delicious meal for the families and allows the parents an evening free from cooking dinner but is a way for all who attend to be a part of a warm and accepting community. Invite your friends and join the next potluck for an evening of conversation, crafts/games with the kids, and a shared meal. For more information, contact the Community Meal Volunteers by emailing mealsantamonicaumc.org or call the church office (310) 393-8258.

**Thursday, January 25, 5:30 p.m. Family Place
(1020 12th St. Santa Monica)**

Loving God with Our Minds Book Study/Potluck

The featured book for January: *And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning* by Dr. Joel M. Hoffman, professor, author, and translator. Rabbi Jeff Marx will be with us to lead our discussion around the riches of the Hebrew language and how inaccurate or misleading English translations often obscure or alter the meaning of the Scriptures. To whet your appetite, the author asks: "What's wrong with the Ten Commandments, starting with the word 'commandments'? Come one and all for what will no doubt be a lively and spirited discussion. Book may be purchased on Amazon or at the Sunday Hospitality Table. Bring a dish to share.

Sunday, January 28, 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

For more information on these events, or to learn about our ministries and missions, go to www.santamonicaumc.org.

Our Sanctuary - Symbols of Hope

First UMC is pleased to present Ron Theile's writings in a new book called *Our Sanctuary - Symbols of Hope*. Originally written as monthly installments for the First UMC monthly newsletter *The Sentinel*, we've compiled each reflection and paired it with photographs of the Sanctuary stained glass windows, taken by photographers Fabian Lewkowicz and Allan Walker. Included is a forward by Rev. Patricia Farris. Ron highlights each of the stained glass windows, and includes a brief history and personal reflection. You may pick up a copy at the Sunday Hospitality Table or the church office. **\$5 suggested donation.**



In conjunction with the release of the book, visit the Fireside Room through December to view *Shining Through: Photographs of First UMC Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows*, by photographer Fabian Lewkowicz.

Please contact the church office and speak with one of the First UMC pastors if you would like information about baptism or church membership. 310.393.8258.

email: info@santamonicaumc.org

First UMC's ministerial team also offers pastoral care. Please let us know if we can help you. 310.393.8258 x 114

www.santamonicaumc.org

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Houston Mission Work Team

This church community has felt called to respond in many ways after the devastation in Houston from Hurricane Harvey. Beginning with prayer that then led into the prayerful actions of collecting items for hygiene kits, and raising money for UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. We have responded over and over to the call for help and will continue to do so this Spring. A work team will be sent to Houston in April to put our faith into action. If you are interested or would like to learn more, email Team Leader, Tricia Guerrero: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org or call the church office. Visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/disaster-response.

Habitat for Humanity

First UMC is partnering with the Methodist Westside Coalition to fund and build a home called *Patience House* in Culver City for a family in need. Build date is to be announced in January. For more information or to participate, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/habitat.

Haiti 2018

Every year since the devastating 7.0 earthquake in 2010 near Port-au-Prince, a team of First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica adult members are sent to live and serve in the country of Haiti. In collaboration with our Haitian Methodist partners, our efforts thus far have made tangible progress in rebuilding churches, schools and homes. In February 2018, First UMC will send a 9 person team. For more information, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/haiti.

Food Drives

Canned food is collected every Sunday to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Food bins can be found in the Sanctuary and Preschool. In January, we collect nutritional and granola bars.

UMCOR

In the wake of recent disasters in the United States and abroad, the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) is working to fulfill unmet food, clean water, temporary shelter, hygiene supplies, and non-food item needs. To learn more and to donate, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/umcor.

*For more mission opportunities, go to:
www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions.*

OPEN INVITATIONS

Shareringers

The Shareringers is a group of mostly retired, but active people. We meet monthly for a Friday potluck dinner with a speaker in the Fireside Room. We alternate religious programs with travel, book sharing, and topics-of-current programs. Also, we have an outing each month, such as museum tours, barbecues and picnics, game nights, theatre outings, restaurant dining, and craft making. We are a caring, sharing group and welcome new members! For more information, call the church office: 310.393.8258.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study is a weekly meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture. As men try to navigate the stresses and complexities of this modern world and daily life, Men's Breakfast is a place for community, prayer and fellowship through the sharing of God's Holy word. Come by as your schedule permits. For more information contact: r.english@santamonicaumc.org.

Tuesdays: 7 a.m., Fireside Room

Prayer Quilt Ministry

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is an outreach ministry that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. There are a number of ways to be involved: When a prayer quilt is hanging in the Sanctuary come tie a knot and say a prayer. Remember the recipients in your prayers in the following days. And join the ministry for work and fellowship on the third Saturday of each month in Room 300 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. You don't have to know how to sew to help.

Next meeting: January 20

Walk the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth laid in the Simkins Hall floor of First UMC is a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth laid in the cathedral around 1220 CE. Walking the Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice, a way to quiet our minds and open our spirits to the presence of the Holy. The Labyrinth is open one Sunday a month, and also available for individuals, groups and retreats by appointment.

Walk the Labyrinth: Sunday, January 21, 2:30 p.m. in Simkins Hall.

There are many opportunities available at First UMC for spiritual growth, fellowship and community. To view more, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org.