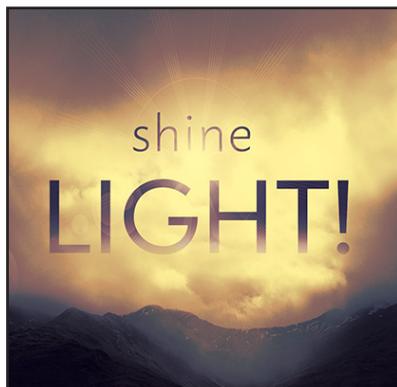


# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent • December 9, 2018



"...Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see it together."

- Luke 3:4b-6

---

## WE GATHER

WELCOME

Nathan Oney

PRELUDE Creator of the Stars of Night (George Oldroyd)

Ty Woodward, Organ

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #730 United Methodist Hymnal — O Day of God, Draw Nigh

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Martha Ross, 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.

**Prepare the way for the light of God's justice and love to reign over all.**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Prepare Ye, the way of the Lord."

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Tricia Guerrero

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tricia Guerrero

#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

Eugene, Catherine, Isabella & Olivia Ohr

*Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:*

**O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As these candles are 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

Nathan Oney

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

**Thanks be to God!**

## ANTHEM

Amadeus Handbell Choir / Mary Crawford, Director

Gentle Mary (arr. Bill Williams)

---

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Malachi 3:1-4 (Pew Bible pages 889-890, O.T.)

Martha Ross

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

THE GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6 (Pew Bible page 60, N.T.)

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

SERMON "Shine Light! The Light of the Prophet"

Rev. Patricia Farris

---

## WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #223 UMH – Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light (verse 1)

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Tricia Guerrero

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL 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

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Nathan Oney

*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). 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

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come (Paul Manz)

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing Holy, Holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

\*RESPONSE #94 UMH – The Doxology

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Nathan Oney

**God of all righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude, the offerings of our lives. The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light in this life to which your Son, Jesus Christ, with great humility came to visit us. In his name we pray, Amen.**

---

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

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

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Prelude in Classic Style (Gordon Young)

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.*

FAMILY INFO

—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.

—A changing table is provided in the restroom located in the hallway west of the Fireside Room.

— 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.

WORSHIP INFO

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

—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/advent](http://santamonicaumc.org/advent).

—Please see an usher if you need information or assistance.

—Flowers: "To honor Mike & Patty Eskridge, for the beauty they bring to our church." From Caprice & Allan Walker.

—To request prayers, fill in a Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card and place 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 for information or to ask whatever might be on your mind! We're here to serve you.

—Stop by the Fireside Room and the Narthex to view the print work of John August Swanson during this Advent season.

—Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent; Rev. Patricia Farris will preach.

MISSIONS

—We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. In December, please bring peanut and other nut butters. You may leave items in the bin located outside the Sanctuary.

*Resident Bishop*

**Bishop Grant J. Hagiya**

*West District Superintendent*

**Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa**

*Senior Minister*

**Rev. Patricia Farris**

*p.farris@santamonicaumc.org*

*Director of Children & Youth Ministry*

**Tricia Guerrero**

*t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org*

*Pastoral Associate*

**Nathan Oney**

*n.oney@santamonicaumc.org*

*Business Administrator*

**Christina Eddy**

*c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org*

*Congregation Care Associate*

**Anne Premer**

*a.premer@santamonicaumc.org*

*Preschool Director*

**Batsheva Spector**

*b.spector@santamonicaumc.org*

*Assistant to the Preschool Director*

**Dane Rold**

*d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org*

*Music Director*

**Dr. James Smith**

*Organist*

**Ty Woodward**

*Lead Coordinator*

**Sarah Rold**

*s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org*

*Membership and Facilities*

*Coordinator*

**David Penson**

*d.penson@santamonicaumc.org*

*Communications Director*

**Tina Gage**

*t.gage@santamonicaumc.org*

*Ministries & Communications*

*Coordinator*

**Shalimar Carducci**

*s.carducci@santamonicaumc.org*

*Head Custodian*

**Javier Espinoza**

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

December 9, 2018

Sponsored by the Mission Council, the Alternative Christmas Fair is a way to support mission projects and programs in the community and around the world, by giving a financial gift in the name of a loved one. Each donation (\$5 minimum) comes with a card with the gift information and envelope. Share the SPIRIT of Christmas!



Last Sunday we highlighted four of the groups on display in Simkins Hall. Here are the rest of the featured projects:

### YOU ARE NOT ALONE

[www.calpacumc.org/youarenotalone](http://www.calpacumc.org/youarenotalone)

The You Are Not Alone program is an UMCOR supported initiative of the California-Pacific Conference. The purpose of this program is to work through our growing network of Immigrant Welcoming congregations to be an extension of God's welcoming, healing embrace to the thousands of unaccompanied migrant children (and their families) who have made the perilous journey from Central America to seek refuge among us.

### ACTIONS OF THE HEART

A Christian non-profit organization which supports restorative efforts in poor areas around the globe. We specifically target projects which train nationals to serve their local community in a way that demonstrates the heart of Jesus.

### UPWARD BOUND HOUSE

[upwardboundhouse.org](http://upwardboundhouse.org)

UBH provides homeless families with short and medium-term housing with a variety of supportive services such as job training, professional and emotional development, and life and parenting skills enrichment, designed to empower parents and their children to obtain housing stability, build healthy relationships, and enjoy emotional and financial well-being.

### INNERCHANGE

[innerchange.org](http://innerchange.org)

At InnerCHANGE, we journey with the poor, working long-term with people who face enduring poverty. For us, mission is about living and working alongside people – so we minister from the inside out. As we listen and interact with individuals, and reflect on the Bible together, we build relationships for the long term. In our journey, we see God at work: in the poor, and in ourselves.

**Today, and next Sunday December 16, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., after worship in Simkins Hall**

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 & PRAYER**

Sunday 10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**  
 Sunday 5 p.m. **simple church**  
*simple church speaker: Nathan Oney*

**MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Today** - *Second Sunday of Advent*  
 11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, SH  
 11 a.m. Angel Tree Project, SH  
 11 a.m. UMW Bazaar Final Sales, Workroom  
 6 p.m. simple supper, FR  
**Wednesday, December 12**  
 7 p.m. Foundation Meeting, FR  
**Friday, December 14**  
 9 a.m. & 10 a.m. Preschool Christmas Concert, Sanctuary  
**Sunday, December 16** - *Third Sunday of Advent*  
 • *Faith in Action*  
 11 a.m. Alternative Christmas Fair (*last day*), SH  
 11 a.m. Angel Tree Project (*return wrapped gifts*), SH  
 11 a.m. UMW Bazaar Final Sales (*last day*), UMW Workroom  
 11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Alcove  
 3 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, SH

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**Children's Ministry**

December Sunday School: Celebrate Advent with Your Family

This Sunday: Mary

**Youth Ministry**

6 - 8:30 p.m. UMYF meeting tonight, Youth Lounge

*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.*

**FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY**

**Angel Tree Project**

First UMC church member Chris Ruud is organizing her 16th year of the Angel Tree Project - a community effort to provide homeless families at Upward Bound House with much-needed household items. Stop by the Angel Tree table during Coffee Fellowship today in Simkins Hall to sponsor a gift. Then return the wrapped gift back to the church office by next Sunday December 16. For questions, contact Chris Ruud: chr10is@yahoo.com.

**Today, and December 16 (deadline to return wrapped gift) after worship in Simkins Hall**

**UMW Bazaar Final Sales**

Missed the UMW Bazaar? It's not too late to peruse handmade crafts and treasures made and curated by the United Methodist Women. Stop by the UMW workroom after worship. All proceeds benefit the missions and ministries supported by the UMW.

**Today, and December 16 (free entrance) after worship in the UMW Workroom**

**simple supper**

simple supper is a simple church monthly potluck. Sharing a meal has always been a holy act of hospitality and of fellowship, and there is no reason to make it complicated; bring a dish to share, eat, and enjoy. There is no need to RSVP, all are welcome, and we will celebrate with those who are present.

**Tonight, 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room**

**Poinsettias**

Beautiful poinsettias will once again grace our sanctuary for the Lessons & Carols service, and Christmas Eve Family and Candlelight 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.

**Deadline to order is next Sunday, December 16**

**After worship, everyone is invited to stay for Coffee Fellowship in Simkins Hall.**

**If you are a new visitor today, feel free to ask any questions you may have at the Hospitality Table in the Simkins Hall Alcove.**

## FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

### Preschool Christmas Concert

All are welcome to watch the Preschoolers perform their Annual Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary. The first show with Group 1 (ages 2-3) at 9 a.m., Group 2 (ages 4-5) takes the stage at 10 a.m.

***Friday, December 14, 9 a.m. & 10 a.m., in the Sanctuary***



*Scenes from last year's  
Preschool Christmas  
Concert*



### 2018 Pledge Contributions Due!

The end of the year is coming. Contact Christina Eddy (c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org) to arrange your giving at this busy time of year. Our church office is closed December 24 - January 1, but special arrangements can be made.

- Give at one of these remaining worship services Dec 9, 16, 23, 30.
- Mail your check postmarked by 12/31/2018.
- Contribute online at [santamonicaumc.org/give](http://santamonicaumc.org/give).
- Use your bank's bill pay system.
- If giving stock or funds managed by a broker, ask for a transfer to be completed by 12/31/2018.
- Contact the church office if you would like information about Qualified Charitable Distributions which can save taxes!
- Bring your gift to the church office.
- Lastly, if you are paying in January for the 2018 year, be sure to date your check 2018 and mark your check in the memo line "prior year fulfillment."
- Giving statements will be prepared and mailed out Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

Thank you for making a difference in countless lives in our community and around the world.

### Introducing Open Space

*Open Space* is a new ministry for young adults (ages approx. 18-35) – an intentional, inclusive, open-minded group that invites all to spark deep conversation and find spiritual meaning in a safe and diverse environment. If you are interested in learning more, contact Nathan Oney (n.oney@santamonicaumc.org), and join us for a Christmas potluck!

***Wednesday December 19, at 6:30 p.m., Off-Site***

### John August Swanson - Advent Art

First UMC is pleased to display the print work of John August Swanson in the Fireside Room and the Narthex during this Advent season.



*Details from two prints that are displayed  
in the Fireside Room*

### 2019 Stewardship Campaign – Grateful

The Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign invites us each and all to prayerfully consider our financial pledge to support the mission and ministries of First UMC. Pledge cards are found in the pews, and may be placed in the plexiglass box in the Narthex. For more information about the ways to give, visit:



**[www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give)**

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### UMCOR Wildfire Response

UMCOR is already actively engaged in California in response to previous wildfires and we anticipate supporting both conferences as they identify and respond to the needs of the populations affected by the current wildfires. UMCOR stands ready to support the response of the conferences with relief kits, Early Response Teams, and funding. For more info, go to:

<https://www.umcor.org/umcor/resources/news-stories/2018/august/umcor-responds-to-current-disasters-around-the-world>

### Westside Food Bank

Food is collected every Sunday to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Food bins can be found outside the Sanctuary and in the Preschool. For the month of December we are collecting peanut butter and other nut butters.

## OPEN INVITATIONS

### DanceFit!

Dance your way to fitness with First UMC member Whitney Hagan, licensed Zumba instructor. Open to all levels of dance experience! Kids are welcome. Tell your friends! Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring a towel. Water will be available. No charge but donations appreciated.

**Saturday, December 22, 10 - 11 a.m. in Rm 300**

### Health Ministry Council

Through God's love, the Health Ministry Council works to promote wellness in individuals, the church, and the community. The council supports the mission of First UMC, plans and implements programs and activities that promote physical, mental and spiritual well-being and healing, and serves as an advocate for health and safety concerns. For more information about the Council, or to volunteer, call the church office (310) 393-8258.

## LOOKING FORWARD



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

### DEC 23 - 10 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

The annual worship service of music and word.

### DEC 24 - 4 p.m. Christmas Eve

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

### DEC 24 - 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Choir, Organ, Harp & Candlelight

