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CALL TO WORSHIP

God of promise and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all the earth may stand in awe and wonder at your marvelous deeds.

Give us ears to hear and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE

O come, O come, Emmanuel
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Wilbur Fitzgerald, Lay Lector

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

Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

THE GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

Wilbur Fitzgerald

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

SERMON “Where New Life Starts: A Love That Surprises”

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Ty Woodward

“Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.”

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Tricia Guerrero

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Anand Darsie, solo

Come, Thou long expected Jesus (arr. Mark Hayes)

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free. From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart! Love divine all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n to earth come down! Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art. Visit us with Thy salvation; enter ev’ry trembling heart. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King; born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Emily Franklin

God of grace, Child of peace, Spirit of truth, we join with all the church everywhere in the world in giving thanks for all the gifts you entrust to our care. Through our giving, we present ourselves to be useful to one another and to you, ready to “be the hope” for our weary world. Open our eyes and awaken our hearts to make us ready for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Emily Franklin

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may mail your gift to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. You may also give online at www.santamonicauc.org/give, or mail checks through your online banking programs. You may continue to earmark gifts for our various mission projects. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts. Thank you.

OFFERTORY

Anand Darsie, solo

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WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

Rev. Farris

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ty Woodward

Now Thank We All Our God (J. S. Bach)
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SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER  Emily Franklin
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.

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God is real. God is love. Together we can change the world.

F I R S T  U N I T E D  M E T H O D I S T  C H U R C H

O N L I N E  W o r s h i p  •  F i r s t  S u n d a y  o f  A d v e n t  •  N o v e m b e r  2 9 , 2 0 2 0

P R E L U D E  S l e e p e r s ,  W a k e l  ( J . S .  B a c h )

C A L L  T O  W O R S H I P

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W E  G A T H E R

Today’s service is an Online service only. Go to www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream for more information.

W E L C O M E  A N D  L I G H T I N G  T H E  A D V E N T  C A N D L E S

Tricia Guerrero

P R E L U D E  S l e e p e r s ,  W a k e l  ( J . S .  B a c h )

Ty Woodward, organ

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Sundays, 11 a.m., via Zoom

**Alternative Christmas - ONLINE**

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 an e-card with the gift information. Share the SPIRIT of Christmas! This year we celebrate Alternative Christmas on the website from December 1-15. Fill out the Giving Form online, then you will receive a receipt via email with your donation. To see the list of 2020 Projects, view a slideshow of each project, and to find the Giving Form, go to:

www.santamonicaumc.org/acfair

**Advent Devotional**

The online Advent Devotional emails begin today on the first Sunday of Advent. It’s not too late to sign up to receive your daily emails. Go to:

www.santamonicaumc.org/advent-devotional.

The devotional is written by First UMC members and provides a wonderful opportunity to share Advent with family and friends. This year’s theme is “Where New Life Starts.”

**First UMC Creche**

Come by the church campus during the month of December to view the annual Creche scene. This year, additional decorations were provided by Mike Eskridge to make the area even more special. We also thank Dan and Cooper Nessel, Javier Espinoza, and Ben Ing for the installation.

Thanks to Allan Walker for his beautiful photograph of the creche taken in 2010.

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