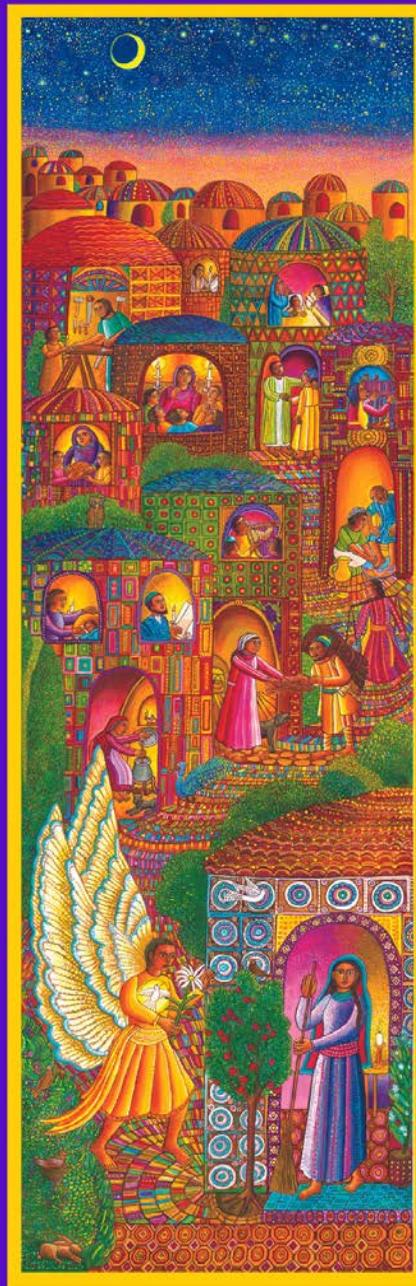


# The Stars Are Brightly Shining

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021



THE ANNUNCIATION  
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# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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PRELUDE – Christmas Music for Harp

Amy Wilkins, Harp

WORDS OF WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful (*insert*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Lamb, Lay Leadership Team

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

Jeanna, Jason, Kate and Jojo Beckerman

**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 may also follow you to new life in him. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir Ensemble/James Smith, Music Director

Sussex Carol (arr. Dale Wood) (*insert*)

A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Tricia Guerrero

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)

Chancel Choir Ensemble

THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

Kate Beckerman, Lay Lector

HOMILY "Good News of Great Joy"

Rev. Patricia Farris

### RECEIVING OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Michael Lamb

*Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. Offering plates are located in the Narthex. You may also give online at [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give); mail your gift to the church; or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. You may continue to earmark gifts for our various mission projects. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts. Thank you.*

### THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Chancel Choir Ensemble

O Holy Night (arr. Michael McClish) *(insert)*

### UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Michael Lamb

**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.**

### 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 *(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 *(insert)*

### BENEDICTION

Rev. Patricia Farris

POSTLUDE Angels We Have Heard On High (arr. Richard Elliott)

Ty Woodward, organ

# Christmas Eve Hymns

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

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;  
*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, O come, let  
us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing,  
all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God,  
all glory in the highest;  
*(Refrain)*

## Sussex Carol (arr. Dale Wood)

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the  
news the angels bring. News of great joy, news  
of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.  
Then why should men on earth be sad, since our  
Redeemer made us glad, when from our sin he  
set us free, all for to gain our liberty. When sin  
departs before his grace, then life and health  
come in its place; Angels and men with joy may  
sing, all for to see the newborn King. All out of  
darkness we have light, which made the angels  
sing this night: Glory to God and peace to  
men, now and forevermore, Amen.

## O Holy Night (arr. Michael McClish)

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
it is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
till he appeared and the soul felt it's worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious  
morn'. Fall on your knees oh hear the angel  
voices, oh night divine, oh night when Christ  
was born.  
Oh night divine, oh night, oh night divine.





## **Silent Night, Holy Night**

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin  
mother and child;  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior is born!  
Christ, the Savior is born!

## **Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,  
and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Rev. Patricia Farris, Senior Minister

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries

Dr. James Smith, Music Director

The Chancel Choir Ensemble:

**Barbara Smith**, JoAnne Bailey & Karen Ing; **Vera Lugo**, Kathy Naylor & Ann Wilson,  
**Dennis Parnell**, David Bremer & Patty Eskridge; Richard Crawford, Michael Lamb & Michael McClish

Ty Woodward, Organ

Lay Lectors: Michael Lamb, Kate Beckerman

A/V Engineer: Adam Guerrero, Brandon Searfoss

Head Usher: David Mayhan

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**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.

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.

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 are happy to have you worship with us this evening and we hope you will return often. Weekly **Sunday Sanctuary worship services** are at 10 a.m., both in-person and online.

For information about what we offer, or to contact one of our pastors or staff members, visit our church website at [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org), or call the church office.



### Alternative Christmas - Last Week to Give!

There's still time to help us share the Spirit of Christmas this year with Alternative Christmas. To all who already supported by making a donation in the name of a loved one, your gifts helped our seven chosen mission projects to continue their much-needed work during this difficult year. A big thanks to Jocelyn Hicks-Garner and the Missions Council for organizing this event, and for hosting two coffee hours with discussions about the mission projects.

Through December: [www.santamonicaumc.org/acfair](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/acfair)



### January Mid-Week Recital

After a short break in December, the Mid-Week recitals are back for 2022. January's recital features **Philip Vaiman, violin, & Miloš Veljkov, piano**. Philip is a Russian-born American violinist who continues the great Russian string-playing tradition. Miloš was born in Serbia, and is now based in Los Angeles.

**Wednesday, January 12, 12:10 p.m.**

**ONLINE:** Facebook: @santamonicaumc • YouTube Channel : [www.youtube.com/santamonicaumc](http://www.youtube.com/santamonicaumc) • Website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream)

• The First UMC App: (To download, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM)



### Ongoing Ministries in January

- **Men's Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom
- **Open Space Young Adults Soul Care:** In-Person and Online meetings
- **Listening Hearts Women's Group, with Tricia Guerrero:**

1st and 3rd Wednesdays: January 5 & 19, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

- **Sunday School for Kids:** Sundays, 10 a.m.

Hybrid of in-person and Zoom Sunday School for ages 2 and up.

- **UMYF Youth Group:** Sundays, 6 p.m. First UMC Courtyard

For more information on all of these programs, go to

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

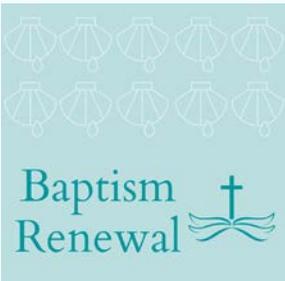
Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever: [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give)



## Epiphany

Join us for January 2 worship, where we share the sacrament of Holy Communion and explore the meanings of the Epiphany, "the twelfth day of Christmas." The Epiphany reveals to us the true nature of the Messiah God has sent to be born among us, to be born within us. The Three Kings prod us to explore for ourselves the power of this love, the import of this love, the range and depth of this love. We are invited to claim it for ourselves and to let its light illumine our lives with grace and peace. We are emboldened to share it with all who, by God's grace, cross our path and share our world. And we are tasked to insure all its benefits for the least and the last, the lonely and the lost, subjects of a new king whose only power is love.

**Sunday, January 2, 10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship**



## Baptismal Renewal

Each year as a new year begins, we enjoy the renewing of our baptismal vows as a time to recommit our lives in the example of Christ Jesus and receive a fresh out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. We invite you to prayerfully prepare for worship on January 9 together, in-person and online. If you are participating online, prepare a small cup or bowl of water which will become for us a source of new life. This is the water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

**Sunday, January 9, 10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship**



## Download the Free First UMC App

Try the First UMC App! Features include being able to participate in the Sunday Worship Livestream, listen to Sunday's sermon anytime, access our calendar of events and get text notification reminders that pop up on your phone the day of events. Share the app with a friend if you want to invite them to an event, or share info about a special program we offer. You can also access an audio/written Bible with a built-in daily reading plan.

**To get the app, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM**



## Sunday Social Hour: Both In-Person and Online

Come say "Hi" and spend some time in community after worship today. Following worship, come outside to the courtyard to visit and say Hello to one another. Then at 11 a.m., we offer Zoom Coffee Hour to all who would like to participate. **Sundays at 11 a.m.**

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/96578397184>

**Zoom ID: 965 7839 7184 Password: fumc**