

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 22, 2024



## WE GATHER

### WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE What Is This Lovely Fragrance? (arr. Todd Marchand)

Brass Quintet

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #250 United Methodist Hymnal — Once in Royal David's City

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Emily Payne

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way.

**To give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

### \* CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Noel, Noel, Noel! Today Christ is born. Glory! Glory! Today Christ is Born. Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel!  
Noel! Noel! Noel!"

### \* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Emily Payne

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

### OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Shalimar Carducci

We give thanks for God's Creating Spirit that continues to give us life and lead us forward!

**Thanks be to God!**

*\*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ann Wilson

#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

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget and Elly Paget

Today, we light the Advent candle of love, reminding us of God's boundless grace.

**May our hearts reflect this love, reaching out to all without limits.**

As we have lit this candle, let it remind us that true love knows no boundaries.

**We will be bearers of love, sharing God's light with all.**

#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 Sunday School in Room 300.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Bill Bumiller

*Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also mail your gift to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. Or, you may also give online at [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.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.*

## THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

A Babe Is Born (William Mathias)

A babe is born all of a may, to bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day. *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come creator spirit). At Bethlehem, that blessed place, the child of bliss now born he was; and him to serve God give us grace, *O lux beata Trinitas* (O light of the blessed Trinity). There came three kings out of the East, to worship the King that is so free, with gold and myrrh and frankincense, *A solis ortus cardine* (From the point of sunrise). The angels came down with one cry, a fair song that night sung they in worship of that child: *Gloria tibi Domine* (Glory to the Lord). A babe is born all of a may, to bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day. *Veni Creator Spiritus, O lux beata Trinitas, A solis ortus cardine, Gloria tibi Domine. Noel!*

\*RESPONSE #238 UMH — Angels We have Heard on High (verse 1)

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bill Bumiller

**O God, all the morning stars sang to you at creation. The angels praised you in song at  
the birth of your Son. May our offering be a true rendering of praise to you, speeding the  
time of peace on earth and goodwill among all your children. Amen.**

# Service of Lessons & Carols

## INTRODUCTION

Rev. Greg Batson

### FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

Emily Payne

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #211 UMH – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2, 6 & 7)

### SECOND LESSON Micah 5:2-5a

Bill Bumiller

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #230 UMH – O Little Town of Bethlehem

### THIRD LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 37-38

Shalimar Carducci

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #239 UMH – Silent Night, Holy Night

### FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7

Ron Theile

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #219 UMH – What Child Is This

### FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-15

Tricia Guerrero

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #240 UMH – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

### SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

Rev. Olsen Paget

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL #245 UMH – The First Noel

### \*SEVENTH LESSON John 1:1-14

Rev. Batson

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

\*CAROL #234 UMH – O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE Noel Suisse (Louis-Claude Daquin)

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.*

—**Welcome New Visitors!** We're happy you're here. You may fill out a Let's Connect Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or sign in online: [www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new), or scan this QR code for the online form.



—**Welcome Guest Musicians:** We welcome the Brass Quintet: Stephen Billington, James Gamer; Rachel Berry; Ron Minor; Scott Sutherland.

—**Children and Families on Sundays:** Families are invited to begin worship in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Message, children are guided to Sunday School for ages 12 months through 5th grade in the Education Building. Parents with infants are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary or in the Family Zone in the Narthex.

—**Safe Sanctuaries®:** 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.

—**Flowers:** To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund).

—**Give:** Your gifts help us grow our ministries today and into the future. Thank you for considering giving to the General Church Fund to support everything we do. You may give today during service, or other ways; by mailing payment, dropping by the business office, or securely through the online giving portal located on the website front page. Questions about financial gifts, or gifts of time? Give us a call anytime at the church office.

—**Prayer Quilts:** If there is a Prayer Quilt in worship, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilt on the north wall of the Sanctuary, or call or email Sarah in the church office to request a tie be made on the quilt for you: Sarah Rold (310.393.8258), or [s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org). To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry).

—**Prayer Requests:** The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests, and treat all requests as confidential. Request a prayer at any time. Go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests).

—**Westside Food Bank:** We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. Bins are located outside the Sanctuary Sunday mornings.

*Resident Bishop*  
**Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank**  
*West District Superintendent*  
**Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi**

*Senior Minister*  
**Rev. Greg Batson**  
[g.batson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:g.batson@santamonicaumc.org)

*Pastoral Associate*  
**Tricia Guerrero**  
[t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation*  
**Rev. Keri Olsen Paget**  
[k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)

*Business Administrator*  
**Christina Eddy**  
[c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Congregation Care Associate*  
**Anne Premer**  
[a.premer@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:a.premer@santamonicaumc.org)

*Music Director*  
**Dr. James Smith**

*Organist*  
**Ty Woodward**  
*Office Manager*  
**Sarah Rold**  
[s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)  
*Membership and Facilities Coordinator*  
**David Penson**  
[d.penson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.penson@santamonicaumc.org)

*Communications Director*  
**Tina Gage**  
[t.gage@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.gage@santamonicaumc.org)

*Head Custodian*  
**Javier Espinoza**  
*Family Ministries Coordinator*  
**Jamie Jones**  
[j.jones@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)

*Program and Outreach Coordinator*  
**Brandon Searfoss**  
[b.searfoss@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:b.searfoss@santamonicaumc.org)

*Preschool Director Emerita*  
**Dee Menzies**  
[d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org)

*Co-Associate Preschool Director*  
**Dane Rold**  
[d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)

*Co-Associate Preschool Director*  
**Johanna Holman**  
[j.holman@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.holman@santamonicaumc.org)

God is real. God is love. ■ 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



Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. We invite you to celebrate the season, inviting new life to be born in you at this time when we need it most. It is the gift of God's grace, bringing salvation to all. This year for Advent, we meditate on each of the four Advent Candles: Week 1: Hope; Week 2: Peace; Week 3: Joy; **Week 4: Love**

On the following pages is a list of ways to engage and move through the holiday season. All events may also be found on the website:

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

---

### Today - Alternative Christmas: In-Person and Online

Christmas and gift-giving go together. The tradition started when the Magi came to the manger with gold, myrrh, and frankincense to laud the birth of Jesus. In the present day, gift-giving often seems to exist only for the benefit of retailers and other entrepreneurs. Each Advent, through the Alternative Christmas Fair, Missions Council gives us the chance to take "trade" out of tradition and to return to the spirit of gift-giving that impelled those three very wise men long ago – to rejoice in the birth of the Messiah. Missions Council carefully selects several local and global mission projects each year. You may make a donation as a gift to a friend or loved one, and send a card announcing your gift. You may donate through December on the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/alt-christmas24](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/alt-christmas24)

**Today after worship in the Alcove, and through December on the website**



---

### Today - Advent Brunch

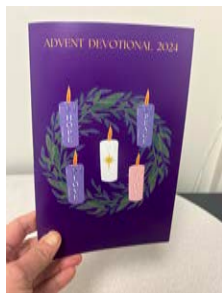
Stay after the service of Lessons and Carols today for the Advent Brunch hosted by Fellowship and Events! Activities will include seasonal crafts, caroling, and a special visit from Santa. Let's celebrate the season together!

**Today after worship in Simkins Hall**

---

### Advent Devotional

It's not too late to read this year's Advent Devotional booklet, available in the Narthex and at the Welcome table, and daily emails are underway. The collection of writings is offered as a framework for your own Advent ponderings. The writers are a diverse group of people, though all are from this congregation. To download the booklet pdf, visit the website [www.santamonicaumc.org/advent](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/advent). Audio devotions as read by the writers (*subject to change*) are included in the emails from Sunday, December 15 thru Wednesday, December 25, and are also on the Advent webpage listed above.



# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

### - 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service

A “No Muss, No Fuss” Christmas Pageant for all ages. Costumes will be available at the door for all children to participate. In the Sanctuary. *(In-person and online)*

### - 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

A traditional Candlelight Service featuring the Chancel Choir, Organ and Harp for our music and the lighting of the Christmas Candles. In the Sanctuary *(In-person and online)*

### - 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

Join us in the Chapel for a contemplative Christmas Eve Service as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We will reflect upon the mystery of the Incarnation, the Word made flesh, in song, prayer, candlelight, and the sharing of Holy Communion. Led by Rev. Greg Batson, with Tania Batson, solo; Thomas Batson, organ; and Wesley and Daniel Batson reading. *(In-person only)*

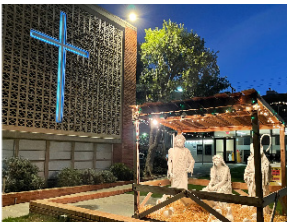
*If you're celebrating with family and friends on Christmas morning, remember that you can access the worship services LIVE, or through the week ahead on these platforms: YouTube: [@SantaMonicaUMC](#) Website: [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc](http://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc) First UMC App: App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM.*



### December Mid-Week Recital - **Watch Anytime!**

Listen to beautiful music this Advent Season! **Seraphour** (Emma Grace Roche, Melissa Birch, Dana Rouse, and Heidi Valencia Vass) is dedicated to the preservation and proliferation of the unaccompanied Sacred Music Canon - celebrating the female voice seeking that which is true, beautiful and good. Read quartet's bios and watch the performance: [www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series); or on the First UMC YouTube Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](#).

.....



### First UMC Creche & Santa Monica Nativity Scenes

We invite you to our courtyard to view our Nativity scene, or creche, with the Holy Family—Joseph and Mary, and the animals that shared their shelter and warmth. We celebrate God's love that comes to be with us, bringing peace, hope and joy for all. The display is on view through December. We thank Dan Nessel and Todd Erlandson for setting up the display.



The Santa Monica Nativity Scenes telling the life of Jesus Christ are on display now through the holidays at **2311 Main Street**. First UMC has been a part of the 70-year-old tradition for many years. We thank Chuck Kearsley, Jon Ward and Adam Guerrero for setting up the First UMC scene.



# LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY



## Women's Christmas Brunch

There is a custom, rooted in Ireland, of celebrating Epiphany (January 6, which brings the Christmas season to a close) as Women's Christmas. Called *Nollaig na mBan* in Irish, Women's Christmas originated as a day when the women, who often carried the domestic responsibilities all year, took Epiphany as an occasion to celebrate together at the end of the holidays, leaving hearth and home to the men for a few hours. Celebrated particularly in County Cork and County Kerry, the tradition is enjoying a revival. Whether your domestic commitments are many or few, all women connected to First UMC Santa Monica are invited! Brunch will be provided with a suggested donation of \$5 to help cover the cost. RSVP with Tricia, including any dietary restrictions, at: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org).

**Friday, January 3, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room**

The Labyrinth and Chapel will also be open for prayer following the brunch from 1-3 p.m.

.....



## 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 12 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.

**January 12, 10 a.m. in-person and online worship**

.....



## All Church Faith in Action

We are excited for the second annual all-church Faith in Action Service Project in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. Through generous donations at the Alternative Christmas Fair, we have purchased supplies in bulk for **500 UMCOR Hygiene Kits**. We welcome help from all ages to assemble the hygiene kits!

**Sunday, January 19, after worship in Simkins Hall**

.....



## United Women in Faith Game Day

The UWF are excited for their annual Game Day! ALL are welcome for an intergenerational afternoon of Scrabble, Bridge, Mahjong, Rummikub tiles, fun and fellowship, with proceeds supporting the missions of UWF. \$10 suggested donation, includes pie!

**Saturday, January 25, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall**

## THIS WEEK'S FEATURED ARTWORK

### *Madonna and Child, by Sadao Watanabe, wood block print, 1988*

Sadao Watanabe (1913 – 1996) was a Japanese printmaker who created biblical prints rendered in the mingei (folk art) tradition of Japan. A student of the master textile dye artist Serizawa Keisuke, Watanabe uses kozo paper (from mulberry tree) and momigami (kneaded paper). The momigami paper was crumpled by hand, squeezed and wrinkled to give a rough quality to the prints. In this depiction of Madonna and Child, Mary holds the swaddled Christ child close to her body. Her crossed arms and kimono merge to create a flowing quality to the work. The red background is highlighted by the bright red cheeks of both mother and child.

*(This piece is currently hanging in the Fireside Room.)*



## Welcome to First UMC of Santa Monica!

Welcome to the worship, service, and fellowship of Santa Monica First United Methodist Church. First UMC is committed to a ministry that touches the lives of people in many significant ways. Through our worship and music, study opportunities, social groups, mission involvement and ministries of care, we proclaim the good news of God's love for all people. We also work to help make the world a better place in which to live, here in the communities of the Westside and around the world, and eagerly invite your participation in this beloved community. Our church has been a significant presence in the larger Santa Monica community for nearly 150 years.

### Stay Connected

To join in fellowship and ministry online, here's how to connect online. *(QR code to website)*



**First UMC website:** [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)

**Instagram:** @santamonicaumc

**YouTube:** @SantaMonicaUMC

**The First UMC App:** Go to the App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM.



### Giving Matters

There are many ways to contribute to the mission and ministry of First UMC. You may give online via the QR code on the right *(Point your phone camera at the QR code and click on yellow link)*, via mail, or onsite through the church office mail slot. To learn more about ways to give, including the annual Stewardship campaign, Planned Giving, Tree of Life, support for the Music Program, and the flower fund, visit: [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give)



### The First UMC App:

First UMC offers a free app - download it and give it a try! With the app, you can: • Participate in Sunday's service, in real time or anytime at your convenience, right from your smartphone or iPad. • Access our calendar of our events • Invite a friend to an event, or share info about a special program we offer. • Access an **audio/written Bible** with a built-in daily reading plan. To download the app, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA  
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258  
[www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) • [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org)   @santamonicaumc





2024

These Poinsettia Plants are presented to the glory of God and  
in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ by:

**Linda Diane Anderson:** In loving memory of James Evan Anderson, Jr., who kept Christmas in his heart, Mary Christian Anderson who kept it in the home, and Lisa Annette Le Fors, beloved cousin and lifelong friend.

**The Edwards Family:** In memory of Graeme A. Reid and Helen Reid; and in honor of Inice Edwards and in memory of Glen Edwards.

**Todd, Leigh, Jake and Frances Erlandson:** Happy Trails Roy! We love you and miss you.

**First UMC Family:** In loving memory of David Penson's mother, Shari Alix McCombs. May she share in spirit with family in God's love of the birth of Jesus.

**Karen Furnas:** In memory of my husband Wendell Furnas.

**Kendra Gorlitsky:** Mentor & Family Physician - Blake Daniel Prescott; friend and internist Bill Skinner.

**Carol Greenwood:** In honor of family and friends.

**Tricia and Adam Guerrero:** In honor of our daughter, Ruby Marcelina.

**Ben and Karen Ing:** In memory of Ed & Pat King and Violet Ing and in honor of Madeleine, Owen, family and our church community.

**Maile Marquand:** In honor of my children and grandchildren and in memory of my husband, Dennis.

**Dee and Jim Menzies:** In appreciation of First UMC Preschool teachers and staff.

**The Naylor Family:** In loving memory of Roy, Maxine, David, Grandma and Grandpa Naylor; In loving memory of Aunt Ruth, Uncle Tom and cousin Curt Zimmerman.

**Sue Payne:** In honor of Emily Payne, a wonderful daughter and a wonderful woman. In loving memory of Dennis Payne.

**Clive Reid:** In dedication to my beautiful wife Marcia Gayle, you are loved and missed.

**Dane & Sarah Rold:** In celebration and gratitude to our three amazing boys, we wish you a magical Christmas.

**Char Smith:** In celebration of my family: Darcy, Drew, Rylie, Camryn, Chelsea, Ken, Gavin and Quinlyn.

**Diana Stumpf:** In memory of Christine and Larry Stumpf, and of Ted and Lois Gehringer.

**Caprice Walker:** With gratitude to my family and in loving memory of my husband Allan, my parents Florence and Bill Workman and my brother Barry.

**Tom Weese:** In memory of my wonderful wife Jennie Weese.

**Ann & David Wilson:** To the glory of Christmas; in memory of loved ones.

**Dorothy Williams:** In loving memory of Gale Williams and Dwayne Sprague, who demonstrated the Christmas messages of hope, love, peace, and joy throughout their lives, as husbands, fathers, and grandfathers, and role models to countless others.

*Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*