

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



December 24, 2024

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PRELUDE Christmas Music for Harp

Amy Wilkins, Harp

WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

*Please fill out a Let's Connect card found in the pew rack and place it in the plate when the Offering is received.*

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #234 United Methodist Hymnal – O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1,2,3&6)

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Ben Ing, Lay Lector

Christ 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!

\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Ben Ing

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Tricia, Adam and Ruby Guerrero

We welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

**Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby.**

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to live in the neighborhood of humanity as a vulnerable child. We give thanks for the birth of Immanuel, God is with us. We remember the promise of hope and God's fulfillment of that promise.

**May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's love wherever we go.**

CAROL #240 UMH – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero

## 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 LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 Tricia Guerrero

ANTHEM The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

Angels' Carol (John Rutter)

THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 Ben Ing

HOMILY "The Angels' Song" Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

RECEIVING OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING Ben Ing

*Your financial support of First UMC makes possible our ministries and mission. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may give by clicking on the QR code on the back of this Order of Worship, or online at [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give). May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts.*

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM The Chancel Choir

The Star Carol (Alfred Burt)

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION Tricia Guerrero

**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.**

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

\* LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES AND CONGREGATION'S CANDLES

*The lights in the Sanctuary will be turned out. The minister will light his candle and the ushers will light their candles from his. 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.*

\* CAROL 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

\* CAROL Joy to the World (see insert)

\* BENEDICTION Rev. Batson

POSTLUDE Toccata on "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Richard Elliott) Ty Woodward, organ

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

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister  
Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate  
Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation  
Dr. James Smith, Music Director  
The Chancel Choir  
Ty Woodward, Organ  
A/V Engineers: Brandon Searfoss, Elsa Taylor  
Head Usher: David Mayhan

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*All children are welcome to worship. There is also an area labeled “Prayer Ground” in the lobby of the sanctuary just inside the front doors that is open to all parents with small children if needed during 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.

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.

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.

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., in-person and online.



*For your convenience, you may use this QR code during  
Receiving our Christmas Offering. Please keep phones silenced.*



### 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 the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. 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

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

### • Walk the Labyrinth & Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth is open every first Friday of the month from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., in Simkins Hall. If you've never walked the Labyrinth before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation. Finger labyrinths are also available! The First UMC Chapel will be open for prayers.

**Friday, January 3, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Simkins Hall, Chapel**

### • The 90+ Birthday Club

Each month after worship, during coffee hour, we acknowledge our cherished members who are celebrating their 90+ birthday that month with a birthday cake and song. This acknowledgement is more than just a celebration of age; it's an opportunity for fellowship and connection, allowing us to learn from the rich life journeys of our seniors. We look forward to seeing you there as we uplift and honor the lives that have shaped our community!

**Sunday, January 5, after worship: Celebrating Jack Fry**

### • Spirit Sisters Retreat

The Spirit Sisters, led by Pastor Dorothy Bimber Worley, are holding an annual All-Day January Retreat with the theme "Living Fully In God's LOVE," in preparation for the Season of Lent. Women are encouraged to come at 8:30 a.m. for coffee, tea, juice, and donuts. Please bring your own lunches; beverages and dessert will be provided. All women are welcome! RSVP: Pastor Dorothy (626)826-8301

**Saturday, January 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fireside Room & Chapel**

### • Youth Sunday

Come and join us for Youth Sunday on January 26! It will be a meaningful worship experience as our youth will plan and lead worship, including our seniors who will be giving their sermon reflections. We look forward to what they have to share with us about their faith journey!

**Sunday, January 26, 10 a.m. worship**

## MISSION AND SERVICE

### • Alternative Christmas thru December 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)

### • Ways to Serve at First UMC

Many of you have asked... How can I do more? How can I serve? These are excellent questions to consider! We have ways to serve out in the community with our Mission Partners - AND ways to serve here in our church community. Opportunities include: Labyrinth Host, Lay Lector, Welcome Ambassador, Usher, In-Home Communion Server, Singing in the Chancel Choir. All are vital ways to faithfully share your gifts. To explore a service opportunity, please reach out to Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org).

### • Volunteer Opportunity at The People Concern

**Linda Diane Anderson** runs a volunteer group on the **third Saturday of the month** at The People Concern, making sandwiches and assembling sack lunches. If you would like to be part of the group rotation of volunteers, contact Tricia: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org). The shift is 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier.

### • Westside Food Bank

Food is collected at First UMC every Sunday, as well as seasonal food drives, to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Food bins can be found outside the Sanctuary and in the Preschool.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### • Children's Ministry

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. You are invited to look around and greet a child and their family in worship. You might hear a few more giggles and whispers or see some wiggles...let's celebrate the joyful and life-filled presence beloved children bring to our community each week!

[www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry)

### • Preschool Enrollment Ongoing

Schedule a tour today with Co-Associate Directors Dane or Johanna at 310-395-7292, or visit our webpage for more information: [www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool)

## YOUTH

### • United Methodist Youth Fellowship Group

Weekly UMYF meetings held Sundays 6 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. [www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry)

**Upcoming Meetings: January 12, 19**

## PRAYER

### • Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth and Chapel are open on the first Friday of the month, from 1 - 3 p.m. Families welcome!

**Next Opportunity: Friday, January 3, 1 - 3 p.m.**

### • Prayer Requests

The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time.

[www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/)

### • Request a Prayer Quilt

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is a group that makes Prayer Quilts as a service for those in need. (*\*Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.*) To request a Prayer Quilt, visit:

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

## ONGOING MINISTRIES AT FIRST UMC

If you'd like more information for ministry opportunities, you may contact the church office (310) 393-8258, or visit the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)

### • Men's Bible Study

**Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom** Men's Bible Study is a weekly online meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture.

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

### • Listening Hearts Women's Group

Listening Hearts is a spiritual community of women who gather to listen to one another in the midst of life's chaos, led by Pastoral Associate Tricia Guerrero.

Contact Tricia for upcoming meetings:

[t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org).

Next meeting: **Jan 5:** Coffee and Connect: 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd, LA CA 90025)

**Jan 22:** via Zoom

### • Prayer Quilt Ministry

**Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m.** in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, Jan 18**

### • The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. **Sing in the Chancel Choir!** We always welcome new members who would like to sing with the choir! Thursday evening rehearsals are from 7:30 - 9 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Contact Jim Smith if you are interested:

[djes@roadrunner.com](mailto:djes@roadrunner.com)

### • Open Space Young Adults

Open Space is a young adult ministry that offers community for young adults to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging.

Learn more: [www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space).

IG: @openspacesm. Next meeting:

**Wednesday, Jan 8,** off-site.

### • Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings **once a month** after worship. Next meeting: **Sunday, Jan 26** in the Alcove.





# 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.

## January Online Mid-Week Recital

The first of the 2025 Online Mid-Week season features **Althea Waites, piano**.

Internationally acclaimed pianist Althea Waites has concertized extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia as a brilliant soloist, chamber musician, and collaborative artist. To view artist bio, and watch past recitals, visit the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series)

**Wednesday, January 8, 12:10 p.m. ONLINE:**

- Facebook: @santamonicaumc • YouTube Channel: @SantaMonicaUMC
- Website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream)
- The First UMC App: (Go to the App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM)



## Upcoming Online Recitals

**February 12:** Erin Wood, soprano, and Philip Hoch, organ

**March 12:** Erin Young & Christian Cruz, guitars

**April 9:** Music Matters Brass Quartet

**May 14:** Ty Woodward, organ

## 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, visit:

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



## Stay Connected

To join in fellowship and ministry online, here's how to connect online:

**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.

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 Gorkitsky:** 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*