



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, November 27, 2022
First Sunday in Advent



Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children's messages and liturgist roles will appear on camera.

Children will remain in worship today. There are activity bags for them at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

Prelude **Variations on *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*** arr. Gerald Near
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Lighting the First Advent Candle – the Candle of Hope Kay Strand

One: We begin the season of Advent. A time of waiting and preparing for the coming Christ. Each Sunday, we light a candle to guide us in our journey. Today we light the candle of HOPE as we sing together:

All: Light a candle bright and tall for the Hope within our world. *(sung to the tune of "Dix")*
Hope that heard the ages' call as the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Hymn** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UM Hymnal #206

Children's Message Jojo Coffin-Langdon, Director of Family Ministries

Morning Prayer Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Unison Prayer: Lord, a candle burns, the sign of our hope. God of hope, come to us again this Advent.
May your hope live within us, burning as a light in our lives.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer - contemporary paraphrase by Mark Berry
O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults. Help us not forget our Source, yet free us from not being in the present. From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering. May our future actions grow from here! Amen!

Anthem *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Paul McKlveen
Cast in Bronze; Bill Alexander, director

Luke 1:5-22

One: In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

All: **Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.**

One: When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah, he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

All: **Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man and my wife is getting on in years."**

One: The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

All: **Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak.**

* Hymn	<i>Star-Child</i>	The Faith We Sing #2095
Sermon	<i>The Gift of HOPE</i>	Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Anthem	<i>Lo, How a Rose/The Rose</i> Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director; Elise Hintzman, soloist	arr. Craig Hella Johnson
Offering Our Gifts and Tithes		Pastor Jeanine Alexander
* Hymn	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	UM Hymnal #196
Benediction		Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Postlude	<i>You Gotta Have Hope</i> Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors	John Lawrence

* Please stand as you are comfortable.



Announcements



to fill out the Connect Cards each week. They are replacing the attendance pads formerly found in the pews. Keeping attendance and making sure the church has your current contact information is an important part of church records. **On the back of the card**, is a list of ministry opportunities, where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.

Guests: Welcome to First United Methodist Church. We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex; we have a packet and small gift for first-time visitors.

Please join us for coffee and doughnuts in Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their estimates of giving for 2023 and their participation surveys. If you haven't yet, please mail them to the church (230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811) or bring them to the church office. Extra copies are available in envelopes on the ushers' tables in the Narthex. Please help us by returning your forms to the church.

If you are planning to submit a photo for the new church directory, please do so by Sunday, December 4. Email the photo (portrait orientation – vertical – is preferred) to info@fumcduluth.com or bring a physical photo in to the church office (it will be returned to you). The new directory will include contact information for all church members, even if you did not have a picture taken.

Enjoy Holiday Music with FUMC Musicians



Saturday, Dec. 10 (7:30 pm) and Sunday, Dec. 11 (3 pm) – One Silent Night: Holiday Traditions and Jubilations

Strikepoint again joins the Arrowhead Chorale for their holiday concert in the Depot Great Hall (506 W. Michigan St., Duluth). This special event will celebrate the season with Bach's glorious Cantata 140, "Wachet Auf," and other songs and carols representative of the Germanic holiday tradition. Strikepoint will also provide a musical prelude beginning 20 minutes before the start of each concert. Tickets are \$30 for adults (\$35 at the door) and \$10 for students; available online at www.arrowheadchorale.com/performances.php or at the door.

Sunday, Dec. 11 (7:00 pm) - Twin Ports Wind Orchestra's Holiday Concert

Please join the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra Brass for a concert of inspiring seasonal favorites, warmth and good cheer. Held in our Sanctuary and conducted by First UMC's Dr. Mark Whitlock, the TPWO brass section will perform a variety of your favorite Christmas music. Free-will donations accepted.

Sunday, Dec. 18 – 10 am worship service – Lessons and Carols service

You don't want to miss our annual Lessons and Carols Service held during morning worship. This very special service tells the story of Christ's birth through Scripture readings and music offered by First UMC's Sanctuary Choir, Class Ring handbell choir, and Strikepoint.

Join us for Faith Forum Sunday mornings 9:00-9:45 in the Fireside Lounge. On **December 4**, Rhonda Montavon will talk about ending the stigma of mental illness. On **December 11**, Shelley Gruskin will shed light on the intriguing question of "what kind of music does God like?"

*CHUM's Second Saturday project will be making holiday cookies on **December 10** from 9am-noon at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (219 N. 6th Ave. E.). The cookies will go to the St. Louis County Jail, Arrowhead Juvenile Center, St. Francis Apartments, CHUM Shelter, and the Warming Center. Sign up at <https://www.tfaforms.com/5025428>*

Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

Thank you to Alex Flinner, Tommy Kishida and the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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***Ways to give to support your church:** give online at fumcduluth.com **OR** text COPPERTOP to 73256 **OR** mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811*