



*First United Methodist Church*  
**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
*Second 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.*

*A nursery for children age 5 and under is on the lower level, and includes a Bible lesson. Sunday School for children K-5th grade will be held in the upper level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message. Please pick up your kids in the Lounge after worship.*

**Prelude**      *Crowded Table*      The Highwomen  
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

**Lighting the Second Advent Candle – the Candle of Love**

**One:** We are in 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. We relight the candle of HOPE, and light the candle of LOVE as we sing together:

**All:** He came down that we may have love;      *(The Faith We Sing #2085)*  
He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
Hallelujah forevermore.

**Welcome and Announcements**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**\* Hymn**      *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*      attachment

*Children may leave for Christmas program rehearsal following the hymn.*

**Morning Prayer**      Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

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

Prayers of Joy and Concern

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.

**Special Music** *Sing We Now of Christmas*      arr. Kevin McChesney  
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." 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.

## Offering Our Gifts

- \* Hymn      *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*      The Faith We Sing #2088
- Sermon      *Listen Closely to the Message We Need to Hear*      Pastor Jeanine Alexander, Deb Holman,  
Jana Picotte, Sue Kurth
- \* Hymn      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*      UM Hymnal #211; v. 1, 3, 5



## AN ADVENT CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

**Preparation** (*sing responsively to the tune "O Come, All Ye Faithful"*)

Cantor: The Lord be with you,

All: **And with all God's servants**

Cantor: O come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

All: **From different places, gather many faces; with wondering eyes we gaze, our songs to you we raise, almighty God we praise you, evermore!**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Gracious Lord, in this season when we celebrate the coming of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we give thanks and praise. You created all things and called them good. You made us in your own

image. Even though we rebelled against your love, you did not desert us. You spoke to us through prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Therefore, with the prophets and all who have looked for a better age to come, with all your people and the whole company of heaven, can we join the song of unending praise?

Response (*sing in unison to the tune of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might adored;  
Heaven and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!  
Hail Hosanna, God Most High; Blessed is Christ who now draws nigh;  
Christ has died and Christ is ris'n, Christ will come again in vis'n!  
Honor, glory, praise is due, God almighty now to you!

#### Consecration and Invitation

Communion Music *In the Bleak Midwinter*

arr. Sandra Eithun

Cast in Bronze; Bill Alexander, director

Post-Communion Prayer (*sing responsively to the tune of "God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen"*)

Cantor: May you go forth with peace and strength, God's word to be fulfilled.

All: **We've tasted of God's light and love which for the world God willed.**

Cantor: Hold fast to the assurance that our worship has instilled.

All: **O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!**

#### Benediction

Postlude *God Rest Ye Merry*

arr. Alfred Fedak

Velda Graham Bell, organ

*\* please stand as you are comfortable*



### *Announcements*



*to fill out the Connect Cards* each week. 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, places where your help can make a difference! These 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 downstairs in Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.

*Thank you* to Bailey Fazzio for being today's cantor for the Communion Cantor setting.

*Faith Forum* is held Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **December 10**, writer **Lezlie Oachs** will talk about how poet Emily Dickinson dealt with grief, pain and the occasional tiff with God. Then we will take a break until January.

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their estimates of giving for 2024. If you haven't yet, There are extra copies in envelopes by the ushers' table. Please mail them to church (FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811), bring them to the church office, call the church office (218-727-5021) or fill them out online: <https://onrealm.org/FirstUMCMN/-/form/pledge/2024pledgedgiving>. Thank you for returning your forms and helping your church plan financially for 2024.

### **Upcoming Worship Services:**

**Sunday, December 10** - Our Lessons and Carols Service will tell the story of Christ's birth through Scripture readings and music offered by First UMC's Sanctuary Choir and Strikepoint, as well as a variety of other vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

**Sunday, December 11** – the Children's Christmas Pageant: "Christmas Around the World."

**Sunday, December 24** – Christmas Eve services at 10am and 10pm. Both services will also be livestreamed.

*Does your child play an instrument?* Maybe they have been taking piano lessons and are working on Christmas music during their lessons. Maybe they have learned to play an instrument in school. If so, we invite them to share a Christmas piece with the congregation during the prelude time on **Sunday, December 17**, the day of the Children's Pageant. Please contact Velda Bell ([music@fumcduluth.com](mailto:music@fumcduluth.com)) or Beth Brophy ([musickids@fumcduluth.com](mailto:musickids@fumcduluth.com)) if you are interested or have questions.

*This year's Advent/Christmas mission project* will have opportunities for you to help your neighbors with financial gifts, collecting items, and donating your time. Please look for details in the December First Family.

*The Children's Christmas Pageant, "Christmas Around the World"* will be presented during worship on **Sunday, December 17**. All children preschool age and up are invited to share their beautiful musical talents to tell the Christmas story on a journey to Bethlehem. Rehearsals will be every Sunday morning AND every Wednesday evening at 5pm for kids 2nd grade and younger, and at 5:40pm for grade 3 and older. There will be a final dress rehearsal **Saturday December 16**, from 10:30-12:00. Children may come to any or all rehearsals and still participate. Please contact director Beth Brophy with any questions: [musickids@fumcduluth.com](mailto:musickids@fumcduluth.com)

### **Enjoy Holiday Music with FUMC Musicians**

**Saturday, Dec. 9 (7:00 pm) - Strikepoint and Friends present A Bell Noël: a holiday fundraising concert**

Our own Strikepoint, along with some distinguished guest artists, will take over our Sanctuary to share holiday favorites. Tickets for this special concert will be available at the door: \$25 for adults; \$10 for kids and students.

**Sunday, Dec. 10 – 10 am worship – 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 and Strikepoint, as well as a variety of other vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

**Sunday, Dec. 10 (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.

**Friday, Dec. 15 (7:30 pm) and Saturday, Dec. 16 (3 pm) – Gloria: Holiday Traditions and Jubilations**

Strikepoint again joins the Arrowhead Chorale for their holiday concert, this year at First Lutheran Church (1100 E. Superior St., Duluth). The Chorale will present new and traditional settings of "Gloria," featuring John Rutter's breathtaking Gloria, and works by Mozart and Wilberg. Strikepoint will also provide a musical prelude beginning 20 minutes before the start of each concert. In addition, our Velda Graham Bell will be playing organ and Derek Bromme trombone. Tickets are \$30 for adults (\$35 at the door) and \$10 for students; available at the door or online at [arrowheadchorale.com](http://arrowheadchorale.com).

The Terri Lynn Fundraiser online store is open in December to buy the gourmet candies and nuts that you love and love to give away. Funds raised will go towards next summer's youth mission trip. Place your order here: [coppertopduluth.terrilynn.com/](http://coppertopduluth.terrilynn.com/)

## Ways You Can Help Your Church



**Volunteers are needed** to serve a meal at Union Gospel Mission on **Monday, December 11** from 11:30am-1:30pm.

**Volunteers are needed** to help with Ruby's Pantry, here at FUMC, on **Thursday, December 21** from 4-7pm.

**Volunteers are needed** to help with making and/or serving coffee following Sunday services. Our goal is to have enough so that people are scheduled no more than once a month.

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

**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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# Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3. In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when  
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing  
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less



geth - er, to o - pen wide the heav - ly door, and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and



lives now in - side us for ev - er.  
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice.  
 weap - ons are bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.