



*Sunday, December 10, 2023*  
*Third Sunday of 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**                      *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
                                      *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*

James Melby  
Johannes Brahms

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy**

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 re-light the candles of *Hope* and *Love*, and today we light the candle of *Joy* as we sing together:

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

**Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**Welcoming New Members Wendy Kidd and Jean Wulfers**

Congregational Response: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

**Call to Worship**

One: We gather in preparation,  
All: For good news is about to be proclaimed.  
One: We gather in expectation,  
All: For joy is about to break forth in our midst.  
One: We gather in celebration,  
All: For we are those people who have said "yes" to the manger, "yes" to the one incarnate for others, "yes" to the wholeness of God.

**\*Hymn**                      *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

UM Hymnal #240

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

## Morning Prayer

**Unison Prayer:** Lord, a candle burns, the sign of joy that comes from heaven. God of joy, come to us again this Advent. May your joy live with us, burning as a light in our lives.

Prayer of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer

Loving God, Sacred One, Blessed be your name. May your kingdom come, your dream arrive, your purpose prevail, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive those who have wronged us. Help us steer clear of temptation, and protect us from evil. We trust you in this, for the kingdom, its power and its beauty, are yours forever. Amen.

## Offering Our Gifts

## Offering Prayer

### *The Nine Lessons and Carols*

*Thank you for holding applause until the end of the service.*

## First Lesson

Reader: Geoffrey Bell

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.  
(Genesis 3:8-15)*

Carol

*Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree*

John Purifoy

Sanctuary Choir

## Second Lesson

Reader: Linda Wiig

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.  
(Genesis 22:15-18)*

**Congregational Carol** *O Come, O Come, O Emmanuel*

UM Hymnal #211; v. 1, 2, 6, 7

Verse 1: Solo – Tasha Kapp, soprano

Verse 2: Sanctuary Choir

Verse 6: Congregation

Verse 7: Congregation

## Third Lesson

Reader: Aaron Boyson

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah. (Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7)*

Carol

*All Praise to Thee*

Elaine Hagenberg

Sanctuary Choir

## Fourth Lesson

Reader: Atley Collins

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown. (Isaiah 11:1, 2, 3a, 4a, 6-9)*

Carol

*Pastorale on "Lo, How a Rose"*

J.S. Bach; arr. Jane McFadden

Strikepoint

### Fifth Lesson

Reader: Jeanne Carroll

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Luke 1:26-35, 38)*

Carol

*Mary, Did You Know?*

Lowry & Green; arr. Jack Schrader

Derek Bromme, baritone solo

### Sixth Lesson

Reader: Thomas Wayne King

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. (Luke 2:1, 3-7)*

Carol

*Vergene bella, che di sol vestita (Virgin beautiful, vested with the sun)*

Guillaume Dufay (1400-1474)

Trio: Shelley Gruskin, recorder; Melanie Sever, flute; Kristin Sande, violin

### Seventh Lesson

Reader: Christine Winkler Johnson

*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah. (Luke 2:8-16)*

Carol

*Pat-a-Pan*

Rosalind Hall and CJ Madsen

Quartet: Brandon Veale, Derek Bromme, Tom Wiig, Riley Hinnenkamp

### Eighth Lesson

Reader: Jean Walsh

*Scholars from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus. (Matthew 2:1-11)*

Carol

*Farandole (March of the Kings)*

arr. William Griffin

Strikepoint

### Ninth Lesson

Reader: Shane LeClaire

*The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-14)*

Carol

*Gloria in Excelsis*

Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

### Prayer

\* Hymn

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

UM Hymnal #238

### Benediction

Postlude

*In dulci jubilo*

J.S. Bach



Director of Music Ministries/Organist  
Sanctuary Choir Director  
Director of Handbell Ministries

Velda Graham Bell  
Derek Bromme  
Bill Alexander

Instrumentalists:

Violins: Kristin Sande, Jenna Mattson  
Viola: Kevin Peterson  
Cello: Byron Klimek  
Bass: Alex Flinner  
Flute/piccolo: Melanie Sever

Recorder/flute: Shelley Gruskin  
Trumpet: Stacy Carolan  
Snare drum: Tommy Kishida  
Piano: Laila Seidakhmetova

Today's service is based on the well-known Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has been presented by the Choir of King's College in Cambridge, England, annually since 1918.

## 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.*

***Faith Forum** is taking a break for the holidays and will resume **January 7** with guest speaker Tone Lanzillo speaking about "Choosing Compassion in a Climate-Changing World."*

*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 17** – the Children's Christmas Pageant: "Christmas Around the World."*

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

*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 or pick up a handout on the tables in the Narthex.*

*The Children's Christmas Pageant, "Christmas Around the World" will be presented during worship next 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*



### **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.terri Lynn.com/](http://coppertopduluth.terri Lynn.com/)

*The Lost and Found* (outside the church office) has been filling up. If you're missing something, please check there. All items will be donated the week of January 14.

## **Ways You Can Help Your Church**

**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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