



*First United Methodist Church*  
**Sunday, December 1, 2024**  
*First Sunday in Advent*



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

*A nursery for children ages 5 and under is on the lower level and will include 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**      *One Voice*      Ruth Moody  
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

**Lighting the First Advent Candle – the Candle of Hope**      Sara Hill  
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: *We Light the Advent Candles*      attachment, v. 1, 2

**Welcome and Announcements**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* **Hymn**      *Canticle of the Turning*      attachment

*Children in 5th grade and under may leave for nursery and Sunday School following the hymn.*

**Morning Prayer**      Rev. MaryAnne Korsch  
**Unison Prayer:** Lord, a candle burns, the sign of 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**

**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.**

**Offering Our Gifts**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**Scripture Reading**      Sara Hill

**Luke 1:5-23**

One: In the time of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

All: **Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless, because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.**

One: Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him,

**All: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.**

One: He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” Zechariah asked the angel,

**All: “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”**

One: The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.” Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

**All: When his time of service was completed, he returned home.**

- |        |  |                          |
|--------|--|--------------------------|
| * Hymn | <i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>                                      | UM Hymnal #196           |
| Anthem | <i>Holy Night, Silent Night</i><br>Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director | Ruth Elaine Schram       |
| Sermon | <i>How Does a Weary World Rejoice?: We Acknowledge Our Weariness</i>       | Pastor Jeanine Alexander |
| * Hymn | <i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>                                   | UM Hymnal #626, v. 1, 2  |



**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch  
**Preparation**

One: The Lord be with you,

**All: And with all God’s servants.**

One: 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, we join the song of unending praise!**

**Response** (*sung 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 risen, Christ will come again in vision!  
Honor, glory, praise is due, God almighty now to you!**

### Consecration and Invitation

#### Communion Music

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*  
Velda Graham Bell, organ

arr. Albert Travis

\* Hymn      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

UM Hymnal #213

#### Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude      *Tocatta on Savior of the Nations, Come*

Velda Graham Bell, organ

arr. Paul Manz



## *Announcements*

*Please remember 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, where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.*

*Join us for coffee and doughnuts in the lower-level Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.*

*Faith Forum is held on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **December 8**, Anne Miller will coordinate a discussion on what book has had such an impact that it changed your thinking, and maybe your life. Come with your stories.*

*Thank you to everyone who has turned in their estimates of giving for 2025 and 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.*

***Holiday Sale to support refugees:** On December 15 after worship, please support refugees by purchasing woven baskets, hand-carved giraffes, handmade nativity scenes, stuffed Noah's Arks, slippers, dolls, batik drawings, and greeting cards. All proceeds will go to refugees in Kenya. I apologize but I can only accept cash and Venmo. ~Haji Dokhanchi*

#### *Upcoming Services:*

*Sunday, December 8, 10am – "A Rehearsed/Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant." All children are welcome to participate.*

**Sunday, December 15, 10am** – Lessons and Carols service. This very special service tells the story of Christ's birth through Scripture readings and music offered by FUMC's Sanctuary Choir and Cast in Bronze handbell ensemble, along with a variety of vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

**Tuesday, December 24** – Christmas Eve services at 4pm and 10pm. Both services will be livestreamed.

**Advent/Christmas Mission Project.** This year we will again have three ways to participate: by making a financial donation, by giving time to volunteer projects, and by donating items. Look for details in the December First Family and the pastor's weekly email.

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



#### **Sunday, Dec. 8 (7:00pm) - Twin Ports Wind Orchestra's Holiday Concert**

Please join the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra Brass for the 11th "Happy Holidays Brass and Percussion Concert." Held in our Sanctuary and conducted by First UMC's Dr. Mark Whitlock, the concert will feature arrangements of the most popular and memorable Christmas pieces. Tickets are available at the door.

#### **Friday, Dec. 13 (7:30pm) and Saturday, Dec. 14 (3:00pm) – O magnum mysterium: Holiday Traditions and Jubilations**

Strikepoint again joins the Arrowhead Chorale for their holiday concert at First Lutheran Church (1100 E. Superior St., Duluth). The Chorale and Orchestra will celebrate the profound mystery and joy of the Christmas season with settings of "O magnum mysterium" and carol settings by Dan Forrest, John Rutter, Mack Wilberg, and more. Strikepoint will also provide a musical prelude beginning 20 minutes before the start of each concert. In addition, our own Velda Graham Bell will be playing organ. 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).

#### **Sunday, Dec. 15 – 10:00am 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 FUMC's Sanctuary Choir and Cast in Bronze handbell ensemble, as well as a variety of other vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

**Friday, Dec. 20 (7:00pm) - Strikepoint and Friends present A Bell Noël: ringing in the holidays** 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.

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

**Guest WIFI Network:** FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

**Thank you** to 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](http://fumcduluth.com) or use the QR code OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.



## We Light the Advent Candles

1. We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night, to  
 2. The first one will re - mind us that Christ will soon re - turn. We  
 3. We light the sec - ond can - dle, and hear God's ho - ly Word, it  
 4. Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way, re -  
 5. Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly an - nounce that Christ has come, pre -

wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light, to  
 light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn, We  
 tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord, it  
 joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day, re -  
 pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room, pre -

wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.  
 light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.  
 tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord!  
 joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day!  
 pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room.

# Canticle of the Turning



My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is  
Thou I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in  
From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be left on  
Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us



great, And my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you bring to the ones who  
me, And your mer - cy will last from the depth of the past to the end of the age to  
stone, Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his  
fast: God's mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the con - queror's crush - ing



wait. You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not  
be. your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you  
throne. The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can nev - er  
grasp. This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us



spurn, So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to  
yearn, You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to  
earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev 'ry mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to  
bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a -



turn?  
turn. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice bum. Wipe a -  
turn.  
round.



way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!