



Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 15, 2024 Third 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 aged 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

Pastorella

J.S. Bach

Lighting the Third Advent Candle – the Candle of Joy

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

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 relight the candles of *Hope* and *Love*, and light the candle of *Joy*. Please join together in singing *We Light the Advent Candles*.

We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night, to wel - come our Lord Jes - sus who
 Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way, re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your
 is the world's True Light, to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.
 Lord has come to - day, re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day!

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Call to Worship

Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

One: We gather in preparation,
All: For the 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

Angels From the Realms of Glory

UM Hymnal #220

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

Morning Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

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 within us, burning as a light in our lives.

Prayers 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

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Offering Prayer

The Nine Lessons and Carols

Please hold your applause until the end of the service.

First Lesson

The prophet in exile foresees the coming of the glory of the Lord.
(Isaiah 60:1-3, 19)

Reader: Ron Berkeland

Carol

Sleepers Awake

Brandon Veale, tenor

J.S. Bach

Second Lesson

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

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Cast in Bronze

arr. Matthew Compton

Third Lesson

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

Reader: Teri Tangen

Carol

A Rose Has Sprung Up

Shelley Gruskin, flute; Velda Graham Bell, organ

Johannes Brahms

Fourth Lesson

God's people are comforted.
(Isaiah 40:1-5)

Reader: Shane LeClaire

Carol

Comfort, Comfort

Quartet: Mary Whitlock, Alix Craft, Henry Mattson, Tom Wiig

arr. John Ferguson

Fifth Lesson

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

Reader: Bailey Fazzio

Carol

Chosen Mary, Gentle One

Sanctuary Choir

Joseph Martin

Sixth Lesson

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

Reader: Aaron Boyson

Carol

Christmas Hallelujah

Mary Lee, alto; Derek Bromme, baritone

Leonard Cohen

Seventh Lesson

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

Reader: Martin Hill

Carol

Candlelight Carol

Sanctuary Choir

John Rutter

Eighth Lesson

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

Reader: Elizabeth Nelson

Carol *Coventry Carol*

Cast in Bronze

arr. Sandra Eithun

Ninth Lesson

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

Reader: Mark Harvey

Carol *See Amid the Winter's Snow*

Sanctuary Choir

Dan Forrest

Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* **Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UM Hymnal #211; v. 1, 3, 6, 7

Postlude *In dulci jubilo*

J.S. Bach



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

Velda Graham Bell
Derek Bromme
Bill Alexander

Instrumentalists:

Violins: Kristin Sande, Jenna Mattson
Viola: Kevin Peterson
Cello: Rebecca Peterson

Recorder/Flute: Shelley Gruskin
Clarinet: Libby Gaalaas
Percussion: Bill Alexander, Tommy Kishida

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

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, 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, muffins, and doughnuts downstairs in Lakeview Social Hall following the service.

Holiday Sale to support refugees: After worship today, Professor Haji Dokhanchi from UWS will be selling woven baskets, hand-carved giraffes, handmade nativity scenes, stuffed Noah's Arks, slippers, dolls, batik drawings, and greetings cards. All proceeds will go to refugees in Kenya. Only cash and Venmo are accepted.

Soup Sale: Homemade Vegetable Beef Soup and Potato Soup, using leftovers from the Roast Beef Dinner, will be sold in frozen quart jars this Sunday for \$15. All proceeds go to the conversion of the theater room into a new childcare space for our growing children's program. Cash, check, or Venmo.

New Christmas CD for sale: After worship today, Tom and Debbi King's new Christmas CD, "It's Christmas in the Northland," is for sale. The Kings are generously giving all proceeds to FUMC's Music Program.

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

Upcoming Services:

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

- Music at 4 pm will be led by Tapestry and Velda Graham Bell.
- At the 10 pm service, music will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir, Extollers (our reunion massed handbell choir), and Velda Graham Bell.

Advent/Christmas Mission Project. This year we again have three ways to participate:

- 1) Financial donations. Donations will be shared between the mission and ministry of our congregation and the Union Gospel Mission.
- 2) Give your time. Volunteer at Ruby's Pantry on Thursday, December 19, or at Laundry Love, hosting people at the Spirit Valley Laundromat.
- 3) Donate items. Diapers (particularly newborn and size one) and baby blankets for ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education, bake cookies for St. Louis County Jail inmates, food and items for the Food Shelf. Look for further details in the December [First Family](#) and the pastor's weekly email.

Strikepoint and Friends present A Bell Noël: Ringing in the Holidays. Please join our celebrated handbell ensemble and some talented musical friends this **Friday, December 20 at 7:00pm** in our Sanctuary and enjoy 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 during 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/

Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

Thank you to the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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