



*First United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 22, 2024
Fourth 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 five 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 *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* Paul Manz
 Still, Still, Still Paul Manz
 Velda Graham Bell, organ

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle – the Candle of Peace Pastor Jeanine Alexander
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. Today we relight the candles
of *Hope, Love, and Joy*. As we light the candle of *Peace*, 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
Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly an - nounce that Christ has come, pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and

is the world's True Light, to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.
give the Christ child room, pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room.

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jeanine Alexander
*** Hymn** *Sing We Now of Christmas* UM Hymnal #237; v. 1-3
Children's Message Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Children in 5th grade and under may leave for nursery and Sunday School following the Children's Message.

Morning Prayer Rev. Mary Anne Korsch
Unison Prayer: Lord, a candle burns, the sign of peace. God of peace, come to us again this
Advent. May your peace 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!

* Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* The Faith We Sing #230; v. 1-2
Anthem *Glow* Eric Whitacre
 Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Scripture Reading Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Luke 1:24-45

One: After this, Zechariah's wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said,

All: "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

One: Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

All: "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

One: The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth, your relative, is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

All: "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

One: At that time, Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

All: Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

* Hymn *Blessed Be the God of Israel* UM Hymnal #209

Sermon *How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection*
 Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Anthem *Mary, Did You Know?* Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
 Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Offering Our Gifts Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*

The Faith We Sing #2098

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Emma Lou Diemer

Velda Graham Bell, organ



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.

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.

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

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.

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 4pm and 10pm. Both services will be livestreamed. Music at 4pm will be led by Tapestry and Velda Graham Bell, and by the Sanctuary Choir, Extollers reunion bell choir, and Velda Graham Bell at 10pm.

Advent/Christmas Mission Project:

Financial donations will be shared between the mission and ministry of our congregation and United Gospel Mission.

Give your time. Volunteer at Laundry Love, hosting people at the Spirit Valley Laundromat.

Donate hats, mittens and gloves to the Damiano Center, and food and items for the CHUM Food Shelf.

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./](http://coppertopduluth.terrilynn.com/)

Church Office Holiday Hours: December 24, 9am-noon; December 25 and 26, closed; December 31, 9am-noon; January 1 closed.

Wednesday activities and music for children, Wednesday Night Supper, and all bell choirs will resume on **January 15**. The Sanctuary Choir and Tapestry will begin rehearsing again on **January 8**.

Conversation with Church Friends: A group is meeting over Zoom every second and fourth Tuesday at 10am to catch up with each other and talk about what comes up that day. If you're interested in joining the group, contact Pamela Brown at pamela.brown@reliabilitysolutions.us

*Explore FUMC, the only session needed to join the church, will be held after worship on **Sunday, January 19, and Sunday, February 23.** There will be signup sheets in the Narthex if you're interested in joining the church or just finding out more about FUMC.*

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

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

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Ways You Can Help Your Church



Damiano Center desperately needs donations of hats, gloves, and mittens, any size.

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