



*First United Methodist Church*  
**Sunday, December 14, 2025**  
*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 age 5 and under is on the lower level, and will include a Bible lesson. Sunday School for children K-4th grade will be held in the upper-level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message, with 5th and 6th graders helping. Please pick up your kids in Lakeview Social Hall after worship.*

**Prelude**      *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/What Child is This?*      arr. Rebecca Belliston  
MaryAnne Korsch, piano

**Lighting the Third Advent Candle – the Candle of Joy**      Mark Harvey

**Leader:** We continue our advent worship, looking to the hymn *Joy to the World*. Sometimes it is difficult to see joy when so much in the world feels out of sync with joyful expression. As we have been proclaiming, JOY does not depend on everything being right with the world. Indeed, Mary's world was completely upside down having found out she was pregnant before her marriage. But this does not stop her from unabashedly singing out, with all of heaven and nature, that what was about to be born would turn the world "right side out."

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of JOY. Let us join our voices with heaven and earth, proclaiming along with the Psalmist:

**All:**      **Sing a new song to the Lord. Lift your hearts with gratitude and joy, Unabashed Joy! Your steadfast love and faithfulness are ever present in our lives.**

**Leader:** We light this third candle today to remind us that Jesus Christ is our love and our joy. Because of Jesus, we have Unabashed JOY!

Let us sing together our Advent song – the third verse of *Joy to the World*.

**Welcome and Announcements**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**\* Hymn**      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*      UM Hymnal #211; v. 1, 4, 6, 7

**Children's Message**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*Children 6th grade and under may leave for nursery and Sunday School following the Children's Message.*

**Morning Prayer**      Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

**Unison Prayer:** Lord, a candle burns, the sign of joy. 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**

**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.

## Scripture Readings

Mark Harvey

### Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the dry land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus. They will burst into bloom and rejoice with joy and singing. They will receive the glory of Lebanon, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the Lord's glory, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and support the unsteady knees. Say to those who are panicking, "Be strong! Don't fear! Here's your God, coming with vengeance; with divine retribution, God will come to save you." Then the eyes of those who cannot see will be opened and the ears of those who cannot hear will be cleared. Then those who cannot move will leap like the deer and the tongues of those who cannot make a sound will sing. Waters will spring up in the desert and streams in the wilderness. The burning sand will become a pool and the thirsty ground, fountains of water. The jackals' habitat, a pasture; grass will become reeds and rushes. A highway will be there. It will be called The Holy Way. The unclean won't travel on it, but it will be for those walking on that way. Even fools won't get lost on it; no lion will be there and no predator will go up on it. None of these will be there; only the redeemed will walk on it. The Lord's ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads. Happiness and joy will overwhelm them; grief and groaning will flee away.

### Luke 1:46b-55

And Mary said, "I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened. I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. God's mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him. God bared an arm and showed...strength, and scattered the bluffing braggarts. God knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. God embraced the chosen child, Israel; God remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It's exactly what God promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now."

## Special Music *To the World, Joy!*

Joel Raney

Class Ring; Derek Bromme, director; MaryAnne Korsch, piano

## Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* Hymn *All Earth is Waiting*

UM Hymnal #210

Sermon *Joy to the World: Unabashed Joy*

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* Hymn *Soon and Very Soon*

UM Hymnal #706

## Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy*

Bing Crosby and David Bowie

Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors



## 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, 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 taking a break in December. We'll meet again on **January 11**, at 9am in Fireside Lounge.

*Thank you* to everyone who has turned in their Estimate of Giving card for 2026. Extra copies are in envelopes on the Signup Table in the Narthex. Please help us in our planning by returning your card to the church office (open Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-noon) or mailing it to church (230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811).

*Advent/Christmas Mission Project* handouts are available in the Narthex. Our focuses for this year are 1) financial donations to be shared between the mission and ministries of our congregation, and food ministry for CHUM and Union Gospel Mission; 2) Volunteer with Ruby's Pantry this Thursday, December 18, from 4-6:30pm; 3) Food items for the Food Shelf. See the list of needed items on the mission project handout or in the December issue of First Family.

### *Enjoy Holiday Music with FUMC Musicians*



**Friday, Dec. 19 (7:00pm) - Strikepoint presents "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. If the ticket prices are prohibitive, please talk to Pastor Jeanine ([pastor@fumcduluth.com](mailto:pastor@fumcduluth.com)) or Libby Gaalaas ([libby.gaalaas@gmail.com](mailto:libby.gaalaas@gmail.com)).

### **Sunday, Dec. 21 – 10:00am worship – "Christmas at the Coppertop: A Festival of Lessons and Carols"**

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.

*Christmas Eve worship services* will be at 4pm and 10pm, and both will be livestreamed. The 4pm service will have music by Tapestry and organist Velda Graham Bell. The 10pm service will have music by the Sanctuary Choir, Extollers reunion bell choir, and Velda Graham Bell.

*A gift to light the church* for the week of December 7 was made by the 2x2s in memory of Patrick Alexander, whose birthday was December 10. Their gift will also support our children's ministry.

*A gift to light the church* for the week of December 14 was made by the Trustees in memory of Bob Krumwiede. The gift will also support the Sanctuary Choir.

*Sign up now* for the new Yogadevotion class series, beginning Monday, January 5 at 5:30 in Three Brothers Chapel. Led by our own Carla Egge, this Somatic Yoga practice is sure to be the unwind you need to begin your week. Register at [www.yogadevotion.com/classes](http://www.yogadevotion.com/classes).

*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*



*Volunteers* are needed to help with Ruby's Pantry this Thursday, **December 18**, from 4-6:30 pm. December is one of our months to provide extra volunteer help.

*Volunteers are needed* to bring cookies and bars (no nuts or peanut butter, please!) for coffee hour following the Lessons and Carols service on **Sunday, December 21**. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex; please bring cookies and bars already plated that morning.

*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.



First United Methodist Church  
230 E Skyline Parkway Duluth, MN

### CHRISTMAS AT THE COPPERTOP



### FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 21, 2025  
10:00 am worship service

Discover the beauty of this traditional service of nine lessons and carols during the morning worship service at First United Methodist Church. The story of Christ's birth will be told through scripture readings and music offered by First United Methodist's Sanctuary Choir and handbell ensemble, Cast in Bronze, as well as a variety of vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

A festive holiday-themed graphic with a blue and white color scheme, featuring snowflakes and a blue Christmas ball. The text "STRIKEPOINT" is in a large, stylized font, followed by "presents" and "A Bell Noël" in a script font. Below that, it says "Ringing in the holidays!". The date and time are "Friday, December 19 7pm". Ticket information: "Tickets available at the door: Adults \$25, Students & Children \$10". The location is "First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN" and the website is "strikepoint.com".

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