



Lessons and Carols

First United Methodist Church Sunday, December 21, 2025 Fourth 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 *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn
In the Bleak Midwinter*

Kristin Sande, violin

Mark Sedio
Roberta Rowland-Raybold

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle – the Candle of Peace

Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Larry Ehresman

Leader: We begin our last Sunday of the season of Advent by relighting the candles of Hope, Love, and Joy.

Psalm 98, upon which the hymn *Joy to the World* is based, names the joyful expression of all creation as the response to the news that the Prince of PEACE, Emmanuel, is coming at long last. Love, not chaos, will reign and balance will be restored. As we get ever closer to Christmas, we acknowledge with hymn writer Isaac Watts that "God rules the world" – not with sword or domination, but "with truth and grace." In this, all nations, all of the world will prove God's presence in and through this peaceful joy.

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of PEACE. 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, Peaceful Joy!
Your steadfast love and faithfulness are ever present in our lives.**

Leader: We light this fourth candle today to remind us that Jesus Christ is our peace. Because of Jesus, we have PEACEFUL Joy!

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

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UM Hymnal #234; v. 1-3

Children 6th grade and under may leave for nursery and Sunday School following the hymn

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Morning Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Unison Prayer: Lord, a candle burns, the sign of peace that comes from heaven. 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: 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.

The Nine Lessons and Carols

Please hold your applause until the end of the service.

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| Carol | <i>I Wonder as I Wander</i> | John Jacob Niles |
| | Tasha Kapp, soprano | |
| First Lesson | | Reader: Karen Alseth |
| | <i>The prophet in exile foresees the coming of the glory of the Lord.</i>
(Isaiah 60:1-3, 19) | |
| Carol | <i>Keep Your Lamps</i> | arr. André Thomas |
| | Sanctuary Choir; Dave Christensen, conga drum | |
| Second Lesson | | Reader: Cindy Hedlund |
| | <i>God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.</i>
(Genesis 22:15-18) | |
| Carol | <i>"Benedictus" from Christmas Oratorio</i> | Camille Saint-Saëns |
| | Tasha Kapp, soprano; Riley Hinnenkamp, baritone | |
| | <i>Sung in Latin. English translation: "Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord.
God, the Lord of Light, he hath shined upon us. Thou alone my God art and all my
trust is in thee. Oh, Lord! Thou art my God; I will exalt thee and praise thy name."</i> | |
| Third Lesson | | Reader: Rick Egge |
| | <i>Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.</i>
(Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7) | |
| Carol | <i>Noël of the Birds</i> | Jacques Berthier |
| | | based on the French carol <i>He Is Born, the Holy Child</i> |
| | Shelley Gruskin, recorder | |
| Fourth Lesson | | Reader: Jeanne Carroll |
| | <i>The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.</i>
(Isaiah 11:1, 2, 3a, 4a, 6-9) | |
| Carol | <i>O Come, Emmanuel</i> | Elaine Hagenberg |
| | Mary Whitlock, Mary Beamish, Alix Craft; Rebecca Peterson, cello | |

Fifth Lesson

Reader: Aaron Boyson

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

Irish traditional; arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Sanctuary Choir and Congregation

*Congregation joins in singing the refrain after the choir sings each verse. You may remain seated.**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.**Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.***Sixth Lesson**

Reader: Carla Egge

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

arr. Kevin McChesney and Julie Turner

Cast in Bronze

Seventh Lesson

Reader: Jack Harris

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

Craig Courtney

Sanctuary Choir

Eighth Lesson

Reader: Bailey Fazzio

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

arr. Shawn Kirchner

Brandon Veale, Henry Mattson, Derek Bromme, Stacy Carolan, Riley Hinnenkamp;

Kristin Sande, violin; Alex Flinner, double bass

Ninth Lesson

Reader: Shane LeClair

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

arr. John Frederick Hudson

Sanctuary Choir and Cast in Bronze;

Laila Seidakhmetova and Velda Graham Bell, piano

Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Hymn***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

UM Hymnal #224

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude*In Dulci Jubilo*

J.S. Bach

Velda Graham Bell, organ

Director of Music Ministries/Organist: Velda Graham Bell
Sanctuary Choir Director/Director of Handbells: Derek Bromme



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, cookies and doughnuts in the lower-level Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service, to celebrate our musicians.

***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).*

***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 21 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.*

***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

***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.*

