

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebration of Worship – *First Sunday after Christmas - December 30, 2018*

PRELUDE (8:30).....*Carol of the Bells*.....Alison Beck, piano
arr. Alison Beck Elizabeth Beck, violin

PRELUDE (11:00).....*What Child Is This?*.....Fr. James McLelland, organ
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. Goad

INTROIT.....*Angels from the Realms of Glory*.....Ensemble (8:30)
REGENT SQUARE Chancel Choir (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....Dr. Hobson

† HYMN OF PRAISE“Joy to the World”.....No. 246

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Dr. Rhoads

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Ring the Bells*.....Al Hobson, baritone
Harry Bollback Alison Beck, piano

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Psalm 148.....Bishop William Hutchinson
Old Testament, Page 716 in your Pew Bible

†

† GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.*

†

**CHILDREN'S BLESSING.....Billie Beck

JOYS & CONCERNS Rev. Joyce

MORNING PRAYERDr. Goad

THE LORD'S PRAYER Congregation (speaks in unison)

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.

‡

† HYMN OF PREPARATION.....“What Child is This?”.....No. 219

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Rhoads

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*What is This Lovely Fragrance?*.....Ensemble (8:30)

Healey Willan Chancel Choir (11:00)

† DOXOLOGYSing to the tune of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below:

Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

SCRIPTURE READING.....Luke 2:25-38.....Rev. Joyce

New Testament, Page 71 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE.....**SEEING JESUS: SIMEON & ANNA**.....Rev. Joyce

When we look at the advent and birth narratives in Scripture, we are invited into the story of redemption for the whole world. We might connect with the people of God who long for deliverance from bondage, or maybe we realize that if we pay attention to signs of the times, we can be led to Jesus the King. Throughout Advent, and now, as we have celebrated the birth of Jesus, may we continue to realize the glory of what God has done. Christmas has come! Jesus the Christ, who is our Lord and Savior, is born! The trajectory of the cosmos has shifted from darkness and death to light and life! This truly is “good news of great joy” for the world.

In Luke 2:25-38, we read about Simeon & Anna, who faithfully and consistently worship the LORD, waiting to see the child of promise, the gift of redemption for the world. May we learn from them, and pattern our lives and hearts around worship, prayer, and faithful expectation to encounter Jesus the King. Now is a great time to strengthen our commitment to be people who look for Jesus with faithful worship and expectation, to be filled with and led by the Holy Spirit. Let us see the majesty, the wonder, and the beauty of Christ the King, and let us continue to marvel at the activity of God that rescues us all. It is a Merry Christmas indeed, to all who hear and see Jesus this day.

+ *HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Go Tell It on the Mountain”.....No. 251
(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS.....Dr. Rhoads

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ’s holy church, and bid you welcome to the congregation of First United Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

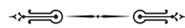
BENEDICTIONBishop William Hutchinson

SENDING FORTH.....*O Holy Child of Bethlehem*.....Ensemble (8:30)

FOREST GREEN Chancel Choir (11:00)

POSTLUDE (8:30).....*Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming*.....Alison Beck, piano
arr. Alison Beck

POSTLUDE (11:00)....*Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*...Fr. James McLelland, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach



Acolytes: Harper Hearron (8:30), Macy Monday, Molly Reagan (11:00)

Crucifer: Elizabeth May (11:00)

† *Those who are able may stand.* ‡ *Latecomers may be seated at these times.*

♦ **COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED AT 9:30AM IN THE SANCTUARY AND NOON IN COUCH CHAPEL.**

* **IF YOU WISH TO JOIN** the First United Methodist Church family, please come forward at this time.

***Children leaving the service for Children's Chapel may be picked up after the service:*

• 3–4 years (8:30 & 11:00): *Children's Ministry Center*

• K5–3RD graders (11:00): *Dawson Building, Room 208, behind the Sanctuary*

Childcare for infants through 4 years is available from 8:15 to 12:15 in the Children's Ministry Center. From the sanctuary, follow the sign located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Dawson Building. Outdoor access is located on the corner of Douglas and Milam Streets.