



500 East Colorado Boulevard
Pasadena, California 91101
(626) 796-0157

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome to Worship. We are so glad that you are joining us today. We invite you to open your spirit to this time of worship, song, prayer, inspiration and challenge.

In consideration of others, please silence electronic devices.

“+” indicates to stand in body or spirit as you choose.

STATEMENT OF INCLUSION



All people are welcome at First United Methodist Church. We are proudly part of the Reconciling Ministries Network and welcome all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, and education, socio-economic or marital status.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!

Nursery Care

(Infant–4 years old)
Nursery care is available every Sunday from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Children’s Sunday School and Music
(PreK–6th Grade)

Children age 3 yrs. through 6th grade are invited to Sunday School after the Children’s Sermon in Worship, followed by Children’s Music for children 4 and up. (3 year olds will go to the nursery following Sunday School.) Child Pick Up (for ages 4+) is in Room 202 at 12:00 p.m.

Questions? Early Pick Up? See the Children’s Ministry Superintendent in the Children’s Ministry Office.

INDIGENOUS LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, acknowledge that the land upon which we worship was the ancestral homeland of the Tongva People for thousands of years. Approximately two thousand Tongva people still live in the Los Angeles area. We honor their connection to this region and give thanks for the opportunity to live, work, worship and learn on this sacred land.

PRELUDE

Carol of Hope Ron Schmoltze (1936-2018)

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

God did not wait till the world was ready, till...the nations were at peace.
God came when the heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time. God came when the need was deep and great.

To an anguished world like ours, God came, and God’s light would not be overcome by our fear, hatred and sorrow.

God came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait til the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain,

In the midst of a weary world, we offer our hearts to God’s presence and hope for all of creation. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

+ OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel UMH 211

+ WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS Light the Advent Candle TFWS 2090

Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun; we have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.

Children are invited to come forward or remain seated.

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent UMH 626

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthy minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Moment for Silent Meditation

IN OUR PRAYERS...

As a community of faith, let us hold these persons in our prayers:

Newly Added: Odin Klimuck,
Priscilla Shurney

For Healing: Christy Bootjer and Family, Joyce Breslin, Patricia Bruce, Erika Carillo, Jenny Carron, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Trygve Gangnes, Jr., Juliette De Guzman, Joyce Dorn, Charlotte Dyson, John Evans, Zina Figilis, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Friends and family of Muriel Henderson, Sallie Higginbotham, Amy Jaffe, Norman Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Family of Helen Kinel, Greg Klimuck, Family of Randy Leach, Julie and Henry Lee and their family, Sam El Masri, Jocelyn Medina, Kendra Millsap, Millsap/Tamkin family, Ken Morrow, Gail Nance, Jonathan Nieto, Carol Nunemaker, Katherine Olivas, Leslie Parham, Tommy Parham, Josh Riaille, Donna Shook, Frances Smith, Jeffrey Stephens, Tim Sun, Deb and Gary Webster, Jan Wentz, Leilani Williams, Nadine Wittry and family, Sonia Wittry, Mona Woodard, Richard Zeiss.

Prayer requests may be shared via connect@fumcpasadena.org and we will gladly add them.

LET'S CONNECT!

Connect cards are located at the back of the sanctuary. Please use a Connect Card to provide or update your contact information, for information on church programs, make a prayer request or communicate a message to our pastors. Place completed cards in the offering plate near the back of the sanctuary. If you are part of the Connected (Online) Campus, send an email to connect@fumcpasadena.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:1-23

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I, too, decided, as one having a grasp of everything from the start, to write a well-ordered account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may have a firm grasp of the words in which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *The Yearning* Craig Courtney

SERMON *The Risk of Hope* Pastor Amy Aitken

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

OFFERTORY *When Hope Springs* Scott Lehmkuhl

+PRESENTATION MUSIC *What Child Is This* UMH 219

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;
the King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, in the midst of a weary world, you call us to be people who bear witness to your hope, joy, peace and love. May these gifts strengthen the ministries of this church that together, we may offer the light of Christ to all your people. Amen.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the United Methodist Church, all who love God and are striving to love their neighbor are invited to share in this holy meal. Our communion elements are gluten and alcohol-free so that all may share in this sacrament together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Hope,
you call us to be practitioners of prophetic imagination,
people who aren't afraid to dream about a better future,
and to take concrete steps to bring it to fruition.
But, too often, we settle for far less than you intend:
for what is easy, for what is convenient,
for what is better for a few, instead of what best serves all people.
Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of moral imagination.
Help us dream of your promised day,
when we shall beat our weapons into gardening tools,
unlearn the ways of war,
and plant seeds of peace in places ridden with violence.
In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH 15

THE 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

OFFERING TO GOD OUR HEARTS, OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS

Giving supports all of the ministries of the church, making it possible for us to offer ministries of hope, hospitality, service and compassion in Pasadena, and around the world.

If you'd like to partner with us and make a financial gift today, you may use your phone to scan the QR code below.



REFERENCE

Today's Call to Worship was Adapted from the poem "First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN

We Shall Overcome

UMH 533

BLESSING OF A PRAYER QUILT

Today we tie prayers of strength and healing into a quilt for Priscilla Shurney, friend of Beth Verniere.

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Aaron Shows (b. 1989)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

For more information, email us at connect@fumcpasadena.org

Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker "ACAC" Christmas stockings: Diane Harris will be handing out names of foster kids from the Department of Children and Family Services along with handmade Christmas Stockings (created by our Quilting Ministry) after church **today** so that our generous congregation can provide gifts for these children. Stockings are to be turned in no later than December 10.

Our Alternative Christmas Market is Today: Choose one (or a few) charitable organizations and causes to support as a "gift" to a loved one.

Christmas Craft Workshop and Friends & Family Lunch is Dec. 10 at 11:00 a.m.: Children and Adults are invited to join us for our holiday crafting and merriment! If you enjoy making holiday decor, this is the event for you! Suggested Donation: \$5/person for food, \$10/person for food + crafts.

United Women in Faith (UWF) Evening Circle - Dec. 15 at 7 pm.: The UWF will have their holiday celebration at Heidi Neuroth's home. Email Jami Carrera (jamicarrera@yahoo.com) for details and the address.

Grieving Through the Holidays: Whether this is the first, second, or tenth holiday after your loved one's death, the emotions that may arise in the days ahead can blindsides you. This Zoom community with Priscilla, Marilyn, and Janet can bring a measure of comfort.

Join in at any time when you feel the need for support, Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on **Dec 6, 13, 20**. For more info, or the Zoom link, email connect@fumcpasadena.org.

Christmas Joy Concert on Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. (Special Time!): The First UMC choirs and instrumental ensembles team up for this annual celebration of seasonal music. Carols old and new will be performed by the Chancel Choir, handbells, pipe organ, piano ensembles and more. Enjoy a few "Sing-Alongs" for the whole audience!

Pastor Amy's and Mark's Christmas Open House is Dec. 17 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.: Come share in Christmas cookies and cheer at the pastor's house. More information is available by emailing connect@fumcpasadena.org.

United Women in Faith (UWF) Morning Group - Dec. 18 at 12 p.m.: The UWF will have their holiday potluck in the church lounge. Please contact Barbara Gorton (h_bgorton456@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 10:00 a.m.: Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:15: Coffee Hour and Alternative Christmas Market (Fellowship Hall)

SERVING IN MINISTRY

The entire congregation shares in offering the ministries of this church. Some of the people who help lead our ministries include:

Today's Worship Liturgist:
Tom Bowman

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Amy Aitken

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mina Nau-Mahe

Director of Music Ministries:
Scott Lehmkuhl

Organist:
Aaron Shows

Ministry Coordinator:
Dori Fotsch

Facilities & Office Manager:
Aisha Williams

Finance Manager:
Tim Sun

Communications Director:
Ashley Slade

Leadership Council Chairperson:
Kevin Lussier

Lay Leader for Faith Development
Mikala Rahn

Lay Leader for Finance & Generosity:
J.P. Harris

Lay Leader for Missions:
Rosalie Niemann

Chair of Trustees:
Paul Audley

TO SIGN UP FOR NEWS@FIRST VISIT
FUMCPASADENA.ORG/NEWS