



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

*Angels We Have Heard On High* arr. Cathy Moklebust  
Resound Ringers  
Megan Goldstein, Handbell Director

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls magnify the Lord,  
and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

**God has looked with favor  
on the lowliness of God's servant.**

God's mercy is for all people,  
from generation to generation.

**God has shown strength with God's arm.**

**God has scattered the proud  
in the thoughts of their hearts.**

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

**God has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.**

Come, for God is doing a new thing!  
Come, let us worship God!

+ OPENING PRAYER

Holy God of Joy,  
We rejoice in the reality of who you are.  
We live within the joy of your love for us.  
Our contentment comes and goes.  
Our happiness ebbs and flows.  
Our feelings depend upon our circumstances,  
our physical health, our brain chemistry.  
But our joy is deeply rooted  
in our identity as your beloved children.  
And we give you thanks. Amen.

+ OPENING HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

UMH 213

+ WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

## CHILDREN'S MUSIC STAFF

### Cantate Director

Chrissa Hayes

### Handbell Choir Director

Megan Goldstein

### Cherub Director

Eleen Hsu-Wentlandt

### Cherub Assistant

Caleb Dehn

### Arranger and Accompanist

Mark Goldstein

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

**Newly Added:** Dennis Ketterling

**For Healing:** Christy Bootjer and Family, Joyce Breslin, Patricia Bruce, Erika Carillo, 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, Odin 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, Priscilla Shurney, 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](mailto:connect@fumcpasadena.org) and we will gladly add them.

## ADVENT PAGEANT

*The Year the Birds Sang*

As Mary and Joseph make their way to Bethlehem, the birds swoop and soar overhead, sensing something special is happening. God gives the birds the message of a special birth—a new king is coming. The birds spread the news as they fly toward Bethlehem. They pass the mournful, hopeless cows who wonder if the birth of this special baby will help them find hope. The birds pass the squabbling sheep and share their news. The sheep wonder if this new child can bring peace. Finally, the birds pass the chickens, scratching for seeds and feeling despair. They hear the birds' message and wonder if joy is possible. The animals wander into the manger where Mary cradles her baby with great love and they realize that the gifts of the child are hope, peace, joy and love and that, as this child grows, He will change the world.

### Handbell Prelude: *Bring A Torch*

arr. Douglas E. Wagner  
traditional French melody

### *The Birds' Song*

Holly Goldstein

### *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne

### *Star-Child*

Carlton Young and Shirley Murray

### *Make a Joyful Noise*

Jimmy Owens

### *Love Came Down at Christmas*

Christina Rossetti (words)  
traditional Irish melody

### *One Holy Night in Bethlehem*

John Horman and Mary Keithahn

## GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

### CENTERING SONG

*Hope of the World*

UMH 178

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
still let thy spirit unto us be given,  
to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.

*Moment for Silent Meditation*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

### 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.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:24-45

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

### HOMILY

*Finding Joy Together*

Pastor Amy Aitken

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

### OFFERTORY

*Pat a Pan*

arr. Jefferey A. Hall

Youth Handbell Choir

Megan Goldstein, Handbell Director

### +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.

## 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.



## 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](mailto:connect@fumcpasadena.org).

## REFERENCE

Today's Call to Worship was written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing, and posted on "Liturgy and Hymns" by Stephen M. Fearing.

Written by Joanna Harader, and posted on "Spacious Faith".

## +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.

## GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

### +CLOSING HYMN

*All Earth Is Waiting*

UMH 210

### BLESSING OF A PRAYER QUILT

Today we bless a prayer quilt for Tim Sun for his upcoming surgery and healing.

### +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](mailto:connect@fumcpasadena.org)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:h_bgorton456@sbcglobal.net)) for more information.

**Managing Anger begins Wednesday, January 17 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Zoom.** Anger has many different faces: sarcasm, irritability, frustration, intimidation, shouting, door-slamming.

In this 4-session group, we uncover the purpose for anger, identify learned patterns of thinking and acting that influence our anger, and look at positive ways to express our emotions.

For more info, or the Zoom link, contact [connect@fumcpasadena.org](mailto:connect@fumcpasadena.org)

## Christmas Services

We will have regular morning service for Advent on Dec. 24 at 10:00 a.m. Afterwards, we will have two Christmas Services:

**5 p.m.: Christmas Eve Family Service** - A special Christmas Eve worship service for children and families.

**10 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service** - This moving candlelight service includes magnificent music offered by the Chancel Choir and orchestra, a brief meditation, and the celebration of Holy Communion.

## TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 10:00 a.m.: Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 a.m.: Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:30 a.m.: Christmas Craft Workshop and Friends & Family Lunch (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:**  
Lake Donahue

**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 Leaders for Missions:**  
Pam Marx & Rosalie Niemann

**Chair of Trustees:**  
Paul Audley

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