



500 East Colorado Boulevard
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(626) 796-0157
fumcpasadena.org

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome to Worship. We are so glad that you are joining us today. We worship God in ways that are both ancient and modern, steeped in church tradition and open to God's ongoing call in our lives. 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.

TOLLING OF THE CHIMES

As the bell tolls, we invite you to simply pause as we center our hearts, our spirits, and our bodies in God's presence.

PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent Traditional French Carol
arr. Megan Goldstein; Resound Ringers

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!

Nursery Care

(Infant-4 years old)
Nursery care is available every Sunday from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Children's Sunday School and Music

(Children's Advent Pageant: No children's Sunday School or Music today. Children will join families in worship after the pageant.)

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

+ GATHERING IN WORSHIP

Claire and Christy Bolton

In the season of Advent, we begin worship gathering around this wreath of candles, symbolizing the four weeks of Advent, and the hope, peace, love and joy that Christ brings to our weary world.

Today we light the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the pink candle- the candle of love.

This candle is also known as the Mary candle. Mary demonstrates for us the grace, humility, and determination of the woman who carried the Incarnate Love of the world- Christ Jesus. Mary reminds us that we, too, carry this same Love in our lives as we live in a world that lifts up the powerful over the lowly, the prideful over the humble, and the strong over the weak.

As we light this candle of love, we acknowledge how hard it can be to live into God's love in an angry and violent world. We acknowledge Mary as a teacher of how to carry the weight of the world on her shoulders. We acknowledge our shared Incarnate Love of Christ within each of us as we continue our journey of Advent.

Let us pray: **Holy God, we thank you for the gift of joy that is found in Christ Jesus. Remind us of this Incarnate Joy within us as we enter into another week ahead. Amen.**

+ OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling UMH 384

+ WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Newly added: Peggy Gott, Darnica Watson

For Healing: Pat Audley, Mark Audley, Christina Bittar, Nancy Brubaker and Eric Brubaker, Patricia Bruce, Anne Burke, Thelma Calantas, April Charczenko, Mary Davis, Pauline Dominguez, Joyce Dorn, Ann and Neal Dougherty, Peggy Gott, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Sallie Higginbotham, James Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Harry Kuruma, Sharon Garrison Morrow, Carol Nunemaker, Rev. Pyong Oh, Paula Anderson Peacock, Carlos Peraza, Stephanie Peraza, Celina Romero, Shane Ross, Donna Shook, Doug Shook, Lauren Sloboda, Wendy Stiver, Phyllis and Howard Underwood, Deb and Gary Webster, Jan Wentz, Sonya Wittry, Brian Worth, Richard Zeiss, Rosy Zide.

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

LET'S CONNECT!

Connect cards are located in each pew. 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 boxes near the back and parking lot doors to the sanctuary. If you are part of the Connected (Online) Campus, send an email to connect@fumcpasadena.org.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: GO TELL IT. GO DO IT.

Echoes

Bill Ingram
Children's Bell Choir

Ring the Bells

Harry Bollback

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Traditional

Count your Blessings

Johnson Oatman, Jr. and Edwin O. Excell

Sing, Hallelu

Traditional

We Beseech Thee

Steven Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy

Traditional

Chrissa Hayes, Cantate Director; Megan Goldstein, Handbells Director, Eleen Hsu-Wentlandt, Cherub Director; Mark Goldstein, Accompanist; Caleb Dehn, Cherub Assistant

YOUTH BELL SELECTION

I Wonder As I Wander

Traditional, arr. Dave Howland

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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 1:39-56

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.”

And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Word of God, for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Mary's Revolution

Pastor Amy Aitken

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

OFFERTORY

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Robert Lau (b.1943)

+PRESENTATION MUSIC

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bless these gifts, O Lord, and help them to bring the transforming love you have given us into ministries of love and peace in this our hurting world. Amen.

OFFERING TO GOD OUR HEARTS, OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS

An offering is an act of gratitude and faithfulness in response to God's love and grace in our lives. 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 to access the church's online giving website. Offering baskets are available by the exits to receive checks and currency.



However you choose to share your gifts, we thank you for being here and sharing in the ministries of First United Methodist Church.

ADVENT EVENTS

There are lots of events at FUMC this Advent season.

To stay up to date, visit fumcpasadena.org/advent.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP



GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN

I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light

UMH 206

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)
arr. by Aaron Shows (b. 1989)

TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 9:00 a.m.: Spirit Seekers: (Church Lounge)
- 10:00: Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00: Alternative Christmas Market (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:15: Confirmation Class (Library)
- 11:15: Youth Sunday School (rm 207)
- 5:30: Youth Group (off-site)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

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

Alternative Christmas Market After worship today: The market offers our members and friends the opportunity to make donations as "Christmas gifts" to benefit one or more charitable causes.

Christmas Joy Concert on Saturday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m.: This holiday concert features choirs, handbells, the Modern Brass Quintet, audience carols – and more! Admission is free.

Longest Night Service on Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.: The Longest Night service of worship is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. Service will be in person and online on our YouTube channel.

Rose Parade Seats and Parking - Seats are Going Fast!: We are taking reservations for seats and parking for the Rose Parade! Our youth group will hold seats for you on the sidewalk or street (even closer than the grandstands!) Please scan the QR code below to make your reservation.



Christmas Eve Family Service at 5 p.m. This is an interactive family-friendly service with carol-singing and candlelight. We invite all to enjoy hot chocolate and special treats in our courtyard after the service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11 p.m. This moving service includes magnificent music offered by the Chancel Choir and orchestra, a brief meditation, and the celebration of Holy Communion.

Cozy Christmas Day Service at 10 a.m. (Virtual): We invite you to join us for worship from home on our YouTube channel. Get cozy in your pajamas and tune in for worship, special messages from the congregation and friends, and good cheer.

Want to be part of the Christmas Day Virtual Service? Send a Christmas video or photo greeting from your home or other festive location to Ashley: ashleys@fumcpasadena.org

Christmas Morning Gathering at 10 a.m. (In-person): We will have a gathering for a festive time of worship, fellowship and Christmas morning treats. If you would like to bring your favorite Christmas morning coffee cake, or food items to share, please contact Mikala Rahn. Christmas pajama/sweaters and comfy, casual attire strongly encouraged!

FIRST UMC STAFF AND LAY LEADERSHIP

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Amy Aitken

Director of Intentional Faith Development:

Rev. Jennifer Chapman

Minister of Hospitality & Congregational Care:

Rev. Connie Tamkin

Director of Music Ministries:

Scott Lehmkuhl

Organist:

Aaron Shows

Intentional Faith Development Lay Leader:

Mikala Rahn

Extravagant Generosity Ministry Lay Leader:

J.P. Harris

Risk-Taking Mission Ministry Lay Leader:

Beth Gerber

Passionate Worship Lay Leader:

Paul Audley

Director of Media Ministries

Dave Lohr

Today's Worship Leader:

Hannah DeLeon