

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Mcvey and Sandefur-Gardner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cheryl Resch

We come to celebrate the God who is present amongst us.

The Lord our God is our strength and song.

We come to share together to celebrate with all the world, that the Lord is God.

With joy we gather around God's fountain of grace to be refreshed and renewed.

We come to share together to celebrate with songs of praise and joy for the Lord is forever among us and with us, and all peoples.

We worship together with joy. Praise God's holy name!

HYMN UMH 206

"I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light"

¹ I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

² I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

³ I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ - God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn - who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading, and deceitful.

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

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. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Pam Winn & Olivia Cason

Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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

RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Prelude Op.16 No.1"
Léon Boëllman

Gavan Mcvey

CONNECTION CARD

You can also fill this out online using our First UMC app or at fumcgnv.org/ConnectionCard

Name(s): _____

Member First-Time Guest Regular Attendee

Prayer Requests Please share with the Prayer Team Please share only with the Pastor

Please add/update my contact information:

Mobile

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Home

Address: _____

Please add me to your email list

Please have the Pastor contact me

I would like to volunteer, please have someone contact me

Questions or Comments?

CALL TO PRAYER UMH 230 (vs. 4) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Beth Snarr

LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

HYMN FWS 2095 (vs. 4)

"Star-Child"

Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store.

This year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON

Pastor Harold Henderson

"Presents from the Prophets"

Joy

Isaiah 12:2-6

Hebrews 12:1-3

HYMN UMH 246

"Joy to the World"

¹ Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

² Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

³ No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

⁴ He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE W&S 3154 "Draw the Circle Wide"

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side. Draw the circle. Draw the circle wide.

POSTLUDE

"La Lutine"
François Couperin

Gavan Mcvey

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Joe & Carol Ward in celebration of their wedding anniversary on December 22.

CONNECTION CARDS

First-time guests, we hope you'll fill out a Connection Card that includes your contact information so we can share a special welcome with you this week.

Regular attenders who checked in at the Welcome Table, you don't need to fill out a Connection Card unless you have a prayer request or change of contact information. Thanks to all, we're glad you're here!

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have prayers to be lifted up or wish to be part of the team who lifts up prayers, drop an email to prayer@fumcgnv.org.

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Have you considered long-term support of our church ministries through our Legacy Endowment Fund? For more details, contact legacy@fumcgnv.org