

## WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Harold Henderson

Christ is coming!

**We will keep awake!**

Christ is coming!

**We will be ready!**

Christ is coming! He will gather his people from the ends of the earth.

**Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.**

## HYMN UMH 196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

<sup>1</sup> Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

<sup>2</sup> Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH UMH 881 Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## 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.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Olivia Cason and Pam Winn

## ADVENT RESPONSE

<sup>1</sup> Kindle this flame of hope. May it burn bright and true. Lighting the way that is of God, the journey we pursue.

<sup>2</sup> God's realm is our desire, where peace and justice reign. Heaven and earth combined as one, when Christ shall come again.

## RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Star-Child"  
Carlton Young

Chancel Choir

## CALL TO PRAYER FWS 2128 (vs 1) "Come And Find The Quiet Center"

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Harold Henderson

## LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

## HYMN

"Jesus Loves The Little Children"

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world; red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## SERMON

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes  
When Everything Is Wrong  
Amos 5:21-24

Pastor Beth Snarr

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

## COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC

Gavan Mcvey

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WE WELCOME AND AFFIRM THOSE OF EVERY RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION,  
GENDER IDENTITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION, FAMILY STRUCTURE,  
AND MENTAL OR PHYSICAL ABILITY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE LIFE OF THIS CONGREGATION.



**HYMN** UMH 211 (vss. 1, 2, 4, 6) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

<sup>1</sup> O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

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

<sup>2</sup> O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.

<sup>4</sup> O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.

<sup>6</sup> O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of the night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

**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**

**CONNECTION CARD**

Please use the Connection Card for any questions, comments, or prayer requests you may have and place in the basket on your way out of the Sanctuary today. You can also fill one out using our First UMC app or online at [fumcgnv.org/ConnectionCard](http://fumcgnv.org/ConnectionCard)



online Connection Card

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please have a Pastor contact me  Please have someone contact me, I am interested in

Please add me to your email list  Volunteering  Membership at First UMC

My contact information:  Growth Groups  Other  Mobile

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Home

Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests  Please share only with the Pastors



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's altar flowers are given by Dick and Karin Jeter in celebration of their 56th wedding anniversary.

**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](mailto:prayer@fumcgnv.org) or note it on the Connection Card.

**NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS TODAY**

We may not have the Christmas aversion like the Grinch, but in this series, we'll discover that much of what resonates with us in the Grinch's story can help us understand our faith as Christians, the hope that we find in the birth of Jesus, and the love that grows in our hearts because of Emmanuel, God with us!

**PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2024 - IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

To those of you who have already pledged in support the ministries of First UMC in 2024, THANK YOU for getting this pledge season off to a great start! If you have not yet had an opportunity to submit your pledge, will you keep our momentum going into 2024 by submitting yours online at <https://fumcgnv.org/pledge>, mailing or bringing your card to the church office during the week or to worship on Sunday? We are BETTER TOGETHER!

**MISSION MOMENT - HELPING HANDS ANNUAL MATCH CHALLENGE**

Our second-mile giving this Sunday is for our mission partner, Helping Hands Clinic. HHC has consistently served our community's most vulnerable for over 30 years and they continue to be their patients' primary source for healthcare. We hope you'll support this life-saving work in 2024 and beyond by participating in the Helping Hands Clinic Annual Holiday Donation Match Challenge. Every dollar that is donated during the Challenge will be matched by an anonymous donor!

**WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES**



**GIVE ONLINE**

use the QR code above or visit [www.fumcgnv.com/GiveOnline](http://www.fumcgnv.com/GiveOnline) or via the First UMC app



**TEXT TO GIVE**

Text FUMCGNV to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483)



**GIVE BY CHECK**

Mail or bring your check to the Church Office 419 NE 1st Street Gainesville, FL 32601



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