

# *Christmas Eve*

*Choir, Candlelight, and Communion  
7:00 p.m. Worship Service*

We welcome and affirm those of every age, race, ethnicity,  
sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic condition,  
family structure, and physical or mental ability into  
all aspects of the life of this congregation.



# WORSHIP GUIDE

## WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

## PRELUDE

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"  
*arr. Sondra Tucker*

Drew Miller & Maggie Tran

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Hamid, Mitra, and Janan

## CAROL UMH 234 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 6) "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

<sup>1</sup> O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

<sup>2</sup> True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son  
of the Father, begotten, not created;

<sup>3</sup> Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to  
God, all glory in the highest;

<sup>6</sup> Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Harold Henderson

## LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

## RECEIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Christmas Communion Song"  
*Susan Naylor Calloway*

Chancel Choir

## THE READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Janet Rocap

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

## CAROL UMH 230 (vs. 1, 2) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

<sup>1</sup> O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless  
sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the  
hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

<sup>2</sup> For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels  
keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy  
birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

## CAROL UMH 240 (vs. 1, 3) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

<sup>1</sup> Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King; peace on earth, and mercy  
mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the  
skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald  
angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

<sup>3</sup> Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to  
all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no  
more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the  
herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"The First Noel"  
*arr. Linda Lamb*

Michael Ekbladh &  
Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

## CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

What Do You Fear?  
Insisting on Light  
*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Pastor Beth Snarr

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC** Jennifer Miller, Drew Miller, and Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS**

(To light your candle, please turn your unlit candle into the lit one to avoid spilling melted wax.)

**CAROL** UMH 239 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

- <sup>1</sup> Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- <sup>2</sup> Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
- <sup>3</sup> Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
- <sup>4</sup> Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

**THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

**CAROL** UMH 246 "Joy to the World"

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> 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**

**POSTLUDE**

"In Dulci Jubilo"  
J. S. Bach

Maggie Tran

(Please extinguish and deposit your candles in the baskets in the Narthex as you leave.)

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*lyrics used by permission - CCLI License #20865697*



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



# WELCOME!

## FROM THE FIRST UMC FAITH FAMILY

**Our Mission is to Connect our Church with our Community and our Community with Christ.**

As a community of faith that believes in Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors, we're so glad you're here and we hope you can join us again for worship!

### *Final 2025 Worship Service* **Sunday, December 28 at 10:30 a.m.**

*(both on-campus and online)*

As this year draws to a close and the new year awaits, join us as we celebrate the timeless birth of Jesus!

### *First 2025 Worship Service* **Sunday, January 4 at 10:30 a.m.**

*(both on-campus and online)*

Follow the star of Epiphany into the New Year during this worship experience which includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

### **Join us online at**

Web site: [fumcgvn.org/watch](http://fumcgvn.org/watch)

Facebook: [facebook.com/fumcgvn](https://facebook.com/fumcgvn)

YouTube: [youtube.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurch](https://youtube.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurch)

### **Mini-Exhibit in our Fellowship Hall: A Journey from Arrival to Self-Sufficiency**

From 2024, right up until the Presidential Inauguration Day in 2025, the Greater Gainesville International Center worked with the International Rescue Committee to resettle seven refugee families from Afghanistan, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Ukraine here in Gainesville. Experience the journey of these seven families as they work to make Gainesville their new home through the line drawings of Terrence Ho and narrative by Lauren Poe. This mini exhibit will be available for viewing before and after our Christmas Eve services and worship services on December 28 and January 4. The full exhibit can be viewed online at <https://mrhotravel.com/the-story-of-refugee-resettlement>.

*"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." ~ Matthew 25:35b*



## WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

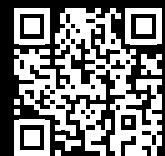


### **GIVE BY CHECK**

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@fumcgvn.org](mailto:legacy@fumcgvn.org)



### **GIVE ONLINE**

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

Share your God-given time and talents in service to others. Learn where you can volunteer by using the QR code above or visit [fumcgvn.org/ways-to-serve](http://fumcgvn.org/ways-to-serve)