

# WORSHIP GUIDE

July 26, 2026  
9th Sunday after Pentecost  
*Christmas in July*

## WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

## PRELUDE

"Christmas Joy"  
*Joel Raney*

Cameron Perrin

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Doug Ray

In the warmth of the summer sun, we gather together to celebrate the Light of the World.

**Though the season has changed, the promise remains: Emmanuel, God is with us!**

Christ was born among us to bring peace, hope, and redemption to all people.

**It is always the right time to sing praises and declare God's love!**

**HYMN** UMH 234 (vs. 1-3, 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:

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We affirm our faith in the greatest gift ever given.**

**We believe in the Word made flesh - God with us, breaking through the darkness of our world.**

**We affirm that the grace born in a manger in Bethlehem is a daily reality, not a seasonal memory.**

**In every season, we choose to live in hope, stand in peace, and extend Christ's love to the stranger and the neighbor.**

**Today and always, we celebrate the light of Christ living within us.**

**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

## RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Birthday of a King"  
*William Harold Neidlinger*

Anait Piloyan

**CALL TO PRAYER** UMH 218 (vs 4) "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Harold Henderson

**LORD'S PRAYER** UMH 895

**GATHERING SONG** FWS 2095 (vs 1) "Star-Child"

Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod. This year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## SERMON

"Let There Be LIGHT!"  
*Isaiah 9:2,6-7*

Pastor Beth Snarr

**HYMN** 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**

Pastor Beth Snarr

**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**

“Sing The Glad Song “  
*Franklin Ritter*

Anait Piloyan

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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.



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today’s altar flowers are given by Mary Kilgour in honor of her brother Jack’s 89th birthday.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

If you have prayers to be lifted up, drop an email to our Prayer Team at [prayer@fumcgnv.org](mailto:prayer@fumcgnv.org) or go to <https://fumcgnv.org/PrayerRequest>.

**PRAYER TEAM**

The First UMC Prayer Team is a confidential, on-line group of people who covenant to serve as intercessory pray-ers, praying over the needs that are raised throughout the week. Intercessory prayer, when we pray for others, is a powerful ministry that uplifts dozens of people and situations, known and unknown, invoking the mercy, healing, blessing ,and justice of our loving, ever-present God. Team members agree to pray regularly, in their own place and style, for an ongoing list of needs and praises. You are invited to join the First UMC Prayer Team! Please contact Janet Rocap at [janet@fumcgnv.org](mailto:janet@fumcgnv.org) if you are interested.

**MISSION FOCUS - HELPING HANDS CLINIC**

Our second-mile giving is in support of Helping Hands Clinic. Funds will be used to provide needed medicines and services for the folks that they serve. An anonymous donor will be matching all monies raised so please prayerfully consider how you can help this vital ministry that we’ve been in partnership with for over 30 years. Please note “HHC” on your second-mile gift or use the QR code to donate online directly to HHC.



**COMMUNION SERVICE AFTER WORSHIP TODAY**

A brief **Service of Holy Communion** will be held in the Shaw Memorial Chapel (located off the Fellowship Hall) immediately after worship today. If you’d like to receive this tangible expression of God’s grace, please join us. Everyone is welcome!



**SIMPLE SUNDAY LUNCH TODAY**

We will be having our monthly **Simple Sunday Lunch today after worship!** Today’s lunch is a potato bar with several toppings including chili, assorted chips, and a surprise dessert. Reservations not required for this free lunch, but we will accept “presents” to offset our costs! **Volunteers to help clean up are needed!**

**OUR ZOE KIDS IN KENYA**

After today’s lunch, Pastor Beth and Elise Caton will be sharing briefly about their recent trip to Kenya. You won’t want to miss the inspiring and challenging stories of the incredible children who are changing the trajectory of their lives with the help of our global mission partner, ZOE Empowers. These are OUR kids and we have SO many reasons to be proud of them!



**WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES**



The light of Jesus shines most brightly when our God-given time and talents are shared in service to others. Learn where you can volunteer by using the QR code above or visit [fumcgnv.org/ways-to-serve](http://fumcgnv.org/ways-to-serve)

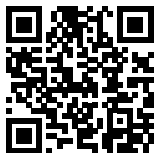


**GIVE BY CHECK**

Place in a black offering box, or mail or bring to the Church Office at 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)



**GIVE ONLINE**

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