

A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 14, 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

"Go, Tell it On the Mountain"
arr. Norah Duncan

Maggie Tran

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Harold Henderson

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see joy in the laughter of children, in meals shared with friends and in the singing of Christmas songs.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Thanks be to God for that good news!

PROCESSION OF THE BELLS

CAROL UMH 250 (vs 2, 3, 4)

"Once In Royal David's City"
verse 1 sung by Charlotte Terracina

² He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

³ Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew; he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

⁴ And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH UMH 85 "We Believe in One True God"

¹ We believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, ever present help in need, praised by all the heavenly host; by whose mighty power alone all is made and wrought and done.

² We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, who descended from his throne and for us salvation won; by whose cross and death are we rescued from sin's misery.

³ We confess the Holy Ghost, who from both fore'er proceeds; who upholds and comforts us in all trials, fears, and needs. Blest and Holy Trinity, praise forever be to thee!

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 OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Garrett Stevens and Erik Soderstrom

RESPONSE UMH 254 (refrain)

"We Three Kings"

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON

John 1:1-14

JD Wallis

"The Word Was God"
Rosephany Powell

Chancel Choir

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

Marlene Udell

"Pengyuo Ting" (Chinese Christmas Carol)

Chancel Choir &
First Choiristers

arr. Carolyn Jennings

Listen friend, to this Good News: Jesus came to earth for you! Came from heaven where he was Lord.

Came to earth to save us all. Listen, hear this great good news! Jesus Christ came to earth for me, for you.

THE THIRD LESSON

"Advent: A Different Story"

Jill Dumas

Rev. Roy Terry

CAROL W&S 3059

"Love Has Come"

¹ Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

² Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

³ Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Nathan Carpenter

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Celebration Ringers

arr. Brenda Austin

THE FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Evie Bruce &

Brent Perkins-Scofield, Jr.

CAROL FWS 2098

"The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy"

¹ The virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy, and they say that his name is Jesus.

² The angels sang when the baby was born, the angels sang when the baby was born, the angels sang when the baby was born, and they say that his name is Jesus.

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer! He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

³ The shepherds came where the baby was born, the shepherds came where the baby was born, the shepherds came where the baby was born, and they say his name is Jesus.

⁴ The Wise Men came where the baby was born, the Wise Men came where the baby was born, the Wise Men came where the baby was born, and they say his name is Jesus.

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 1:39-58

Barbara Close

"The First Noel"

Michael Ekbladh &
Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

arr. Linda R. Lamb

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Phil Snarr

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Drew Miller & Maggie Tran

arr. Sondra Tucker

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Jenifer Hartman

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Chancel Choir

arr. Emily Crocker

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.



THE NINTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Roger Carpenter

CAROL 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

Pastor Beth Snarr

SUNG 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

"I Wish You Christmas"
John Rutter

Chancel Choir

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HELPING HANDS MATCH CHALLENGE

During this special season of giving, we celebrate the ministry of 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 2026 and beyond by participating in the Helping Hands Clinic Annual Holiday Donation Match Challenge!



Once again, a volunteer donor and "Uncle Ike Family" has pledged to match all monetary donations given to the clinic through December 31st. These funds will be used by the clinic to support all aspects of program operations. Donations by check can be made to First UMC with "Helping Hands Clinic" in the memo line, directly to Helping Hands via their web site at <https://hhclinicgnv.org>, or through First UMC web site at <https://fumcgnv.org/give> and using the Helping Hands 2nd Mile Giving link on the right.

We are so grateful for all the ways Helping Hands and First UMC have been in partnership for so many years to bring healing, not only to broken bodies, but also to broken spirits. Please also feel free pass the word to anyone who'd be interested in helping to support this life-giving work! God Bless You.



Special thanks to everyone who helped and contributed long hours and hard work to making this year's service a fabulous success! Please see below for a list of the groups and musicians that made this worship experience possible. You are all greatly appreciated!

Michael Ekbladh, *Director of Music Ministries and Worship Arts*

Celebration Ringers

Chancel Choir

First Choiristers

Evie Bruce
Gia Bruce
Lillian Bruggeman
Nancy Mentz
Charlotte Terracina
Jack Terracina

Instrumental Ensemble

Greg Caruso, *trombone*
Maurya Dickerson, *viola*
Will Eberhardt, *clarinet*
George Emmanuel, *trombone*
Wes Emmanuel, *tuba*
Julie Franklin, *viola*
Ana Galdavadze, *violin*
Ryan Hecker, *percussion*
Michael Knowles, *cello*
Peyton Manning, *percussion*
Drew Miller, *trumpet*

Pamela Mireles, *violin*
Cameron Perrin, *flute*
Noelle Potentizi, *flute*
Peyton Redmyer, *oboe*
Lynn Sandefur-Gardner, *piano*
Sonya Stahl, *violin*
Zach Strickland, *cello*
Maggie Tran, *organ*
Liam Tvenstrup, *violin*
April Zink, *trumpet*

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!
We worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in our Sanctuary and online.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Lighting of the fourth candle of Advent in preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Children's Nativity and Candlelight Service at 4:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir, Candlelight, and Communion Service at 7:00 p.m.

Final 2025 Worship Service

Sunday, December 28 at 10:30 a.m.

All of our services are available online at fumcgv.org/watch
and also on Facebook at facebook.com/fumcgv/live
and YouTube at youtube.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurch



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 fumcgv.org/ways-to-serve

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@fumcgv.org



GIVE ONLINE

use the QR code above or visit fumcgv.com/GiveOnline or via the First UMC app