

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

Gavan Mcvey

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Harold Henderson

God of love, we yearn for your presence.

Our hearts ache for your light.

Christ, bearer of miracles, we look to your coming, for the dawning of your new day.

We look for the light that leads us to life.

Spirit of light, arise in us and guide us.

Come and unfold your beauty within us.

HYMN UMH 240

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

¹ 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!"

² Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

³ 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!"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that a voice cried out in the wilderness, saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord." And so, we choose love.

We march toward justice. We roll up our sleeves. We plant trees for our children. We make art. We set an extra plate. We sing loudly, with joy. We share stories and wisdom. We celebrate children.

We do all these things because we believe that God loves us so much that God shows up here.

This we believe and so we prepare. 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 LOVE

Joe and Carol Ward

SUNG RESPONSE

¹ Kindle this flame of love. May it burn bright and true. Lighting the way that is of God, the journey we pursue.

² 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

"I Saw Three Ships"
arr. Audrey Snyder

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

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 234 (vss. 1, 2, 3, 6) "O Come All Ye Faithful"

¹ 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.

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

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

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

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

Gavan Mcvey

CONNECTION CARD



online 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

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



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 or note it on the Connection Card.

YEAR-END GIVING

In order to finish the year financially strong, for the purpose of sharing's Christ's love on our campus, in our community and around our world, we need your gift!

Anything received or postmarked by December 31 will be applied to this fiscal year and although the church office is closed next week, you can mail in your offering or drop it off through the mail slot in the door. You can also always donate online via Subsplash at <https://fumcgnv.org/GiveOnline>. Thank you... we are better together!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you dedicated Christmas poinsettias, they can be taken home after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service tonight. Thank you for helping to beautify our Sanctuary for this holiday season!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NEXT WEEK

The church office will be closed next week for Christmas and New Years holidays, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES



GIVE ONLINE

use the QR code above or visit

www.fumcgnv.com/GiveOnline or via the First UMC app



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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