## WORSHIP GUIDE

#### **November 30, 2025 1st Sunday of Advent**

WELCOME Pastor Beth Snarr **PRELUDE** "An Advent Prayer" Sadie Court

Allen Pote **CALL TO WORSHIP** Steve Kee

On Sundays and Mondays,

on good days and bad days,

early in the morning and very late at night,

here in this room, and out in the world, God, we long for you to break in.

Meet us in this space.

Surprise us with your presence.

Fill this room with your good news.

With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

**HYMN** UMH 211 (vss 1, 2, 3, 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>3</sup> O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
- <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.

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born.

We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. 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 OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Donna and Larry Parrish

**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**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Call to Advent" arr. Robert Jackson **Chancel Choir** 

#### **CALL TO PRAYER**

Take heart. Take heart! The One who calls to you will give you strength and see you through.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor Harold Hendeson

**LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895** 

**GATHERING SONG** UMH 217 (vs 3) "Away In A Manger"

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

#### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**SERMON** What Do You Fear? Pastor Beth Snarr

> Insisting on Hope Luke 1:5-13

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

<sup>1</sup> Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

- <sup>2</sup> Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
- <sup>3</sup> Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
- <sup>4</sup> See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

#### **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** Maggie Tran

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#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Today's altar flowers are given anonymously in joyful Thanksgiving to God for his many blessings and great faithfulness. Thanks be to God.

#### **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 go to https://fumcgnv.org/PrayerRequest.

#### **MINISTRY FOCUS - RESIDING HOPE**

Our ministry focus this Sunday is Residing Hope which provides diverse ministries that include therapeutic residential care, foster care, independent living assistance, Montessori education for the community, and counseling services in multiple counties for children and youth. Your secondmile gifts will be used by First UMC to purchase gift cards to provide the children with presents to open on Christmas.

#### ADVENT SERMON SERIES

We are starting a new sermon series today titled "What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent". Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold on to hope because we believe that Christ did come - that's the promise of the season. In this sermon series, we reflect on a hope that is not flimsy or fleeting. Our hope is gritty, resilient, and can endure - no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope, peace, joy, love, and light, trusting that the Good News is greater than fear.

#### COMMUNION AVAILABLE AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

A brief Service of Holy Communion (approximately 15 minutes) will be held in the Shaw Memorial Chapel (adjacent to 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!

#### **STEWARDSHIP 2026**

We are in the midst of our annual Stewardship Campaign. Last week was Commitment Sunday but it is not too late to submit your pledge for the upcoming fiscal year. If you need a pledge card, they are available on the Welcome Table and they can be placed in te black offerin boxes. You can also submit your pledge card online at https://fumcgnv.org/pledge or through the First UMC app. Thank you for supporting your faith family in this necessary and tangible way.

#### **SAVE THE DATE - DICKENS INN**

Dickens Inn, our traditional First UMC potluck holiday dinner will be on Tuesday, December 16th, and Wednesday, December 17th, at 6:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. Reservations can be placed starting today after the service or via the church office during the week.

#### 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

### 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@fumcgnv.org



#### **GIVE ONLINE**

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