

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

“Picardy”

Gavan Mcvey

CALL TO WORSHIP

Janet Rocap

Eager for the coming of Christ, let us enter into the mystery of God’s dawning presence among us.

**Loving God, we open our hearts to you and await your gracious coming.**

In the winter darkness, we long for your light.

**We confess our need for your grace, for the sin of our lives and the brokenness of this world.**

Come, O Lord! May your peace dawn on our world.

**Come, O Savior! May your grace be born in our hearts.**

Bless the darkness, that we may wait with hope.

**Bless the silence, that we may listen for your coming.**

Grant us stillness, that with patience and courage we may prepare room in our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

**Come, O Savior, come!**

HYMN W&S 3047

“God Almighty, We Are Waiting”

<sup>1</sup> God Almighty, we are waiting for a Savior to appear. Meet us in our desert journey; give a sign that you are near: burning bushes, parted waters, food aplenty in the wild. As we look for signs and wonders, help us see you in a child.

<sup>2</sup> God Incarnate, we are waiting for the feast day of your birth. Looking back and looking forward to the Christ’s return to earth. Help us to proclaim the gospel, ‘til the world is reconciled. Let us set your holy table for each woman, man, and child.

<sup>3</sup> God the Spirit, we are waiting for your presence here and now. Humbled by our sinful weakness, at your mercy we will bow. Search our hearts and make us ready, speak in language strong and mild, help each one of us, your people, to receive you like a child.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are an Advent people, a people of hope.**

**For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God’s promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.**

**Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.**

**But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.**

**The Holy One is coming, to make whole once again all that was, is, and ever will be.**

**And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.**

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Steve and Rita Dopp, and E’Moni Collins

HYMN UMH 204

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

RECEIVING GOD’S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Chancel Choir

John Carter

CALL TO PRAYER UMH 626 (vs 1) “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER UMH 895

HYMN FWS 2095 (vs 5)

“Star-Child”

Hope-for-peace Child, God’s stupendous sign, down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine, this year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

SERMON

Waiting Well - Hope

Pastor Beth Snarr

Isaiah 2:1-5

HYMN UMH 211 (vss 1-4)

“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.

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 "Tempo di Marcia" Léon Boëllmann Gavan Mcvey

CONNECTION CARD

Please place the Connection Card in the basket on your way out of the Sanctuary today.  
You can also fill this out online using our First UMC app or at [fumcgnv.org/ConnectionCard](http://fumcgnv.org/ConnectionCard)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Member ☐ Guest ☐ Regular Attendee ☐ Mobile

Please add/update my contact information: ☐ Home

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please add me to your email list ☐ Please have the Pastor contact me

☐ Please have someone contact me, I am interested in  
☐ Volunteering ☐ Membership at First UMC  
☐ Growth Groups

Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests  
☐ Please share only with the Pastors

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by John and Alice Stull in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary.

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](mailto:prayer@fumcgnv.org).

GIFT CARDS FOR FLUMC CHILDREN'S HOMES

The Florida UMC Children's Homes are seeking gift cards in order to provide the children with presents to open on Christmas. They are in need of gift cards in increments of \$10 to \$100 to major chain stores and restaurants. You can bring your gift cards on Sundays or drop them off at the church office during the week. You can also make a monetary donation via First UMC (mark the memo line for Gift Cards) and we will buy the cards for you.

CONNECTION CARDS

First-time guests, we hope you'll fill out a Connection Card that includes your contact information so we can share a special welcome with you this week.  
Regular attenders who checked in at the Welcome Table, you don't need to fill out a Connection Card unless you have a prayer request or change of contact information. Thanks to all, we're glad you're here!

COMMITMENT CARDS

If you have not yet filled out your commitment card or want to pledge online, you still can by mail or online at <https://fumcgnv.org/pledge>. You can also bring it by the church office. Thank you for supporting our missions and ministries!

WEEKLY WELCOME

A copy of our Weekly Welcome newsletter is available on the the Welcome Table if you wish to take one and see all the latest news and information at First UMC. If you want to receive a copy via email, simply note that on the Connection Card or drop an email to [contact@fumcgnv.org](mailto:contact@fumcgnv.org).

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES



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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)