

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Celebration of Worship – *Third Sunday of Advent* – 12.17.17

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PRELUDE..... “*Movement 4: Chorale*”.....E. Ray Peebles  
from *Cantata No.140: Wachet Auf*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

[Zion hears the watchmen singing... Ah come, thou blessed One, God’s own beloved Son]

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. Goad

INTROIT.....*In the Bleak Midwinter*.....Ensemble (8:30)  
CRANHAM Chancel Choir (11:00)  
String Quartet

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....Dr. Goad

† HYMN OF PRAISE .....“*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*”.....No. 211  
Stanzas 1-4

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Dr. Goad

BAPTISM (11:00).....Evangeline Lily Kinnebrew.....No. 39, Dr. Day  
Presented by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. William Philip Kinnebrew, Jr.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ..... Dave & Carla Anderson (8:30)  
Sasha & Nadia, Wilna Sepulvado  
Taylor & Rachel Caudle (11:00)  
Anna Claire & Ellie, Lounelle Black

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Huron Carol*.....Women's Ensemble  
arr. Paul Halley Wesley Bells  
E. Ray Peebles, organ

† CONGREGATIONAL READING.....No. 208.....Rev. Wilkinson

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† GLORIA PATRI

*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.*

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\*\*CHILDREN'S BLESSING..... Staci Zeagler

JOYS & CONCERNS ..... Dr. Day

MORNING PRAYER ..... Dr. Rhoads

THE LORD'S PRAYER ..... Congregation (speaks in unison)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. ✠ Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ✠ Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. ✠ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ✠ For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.*

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† HYMN OF PREPARATION....."God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

**Refrain**

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.  
From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

## Refrain

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straight-way this blessed Babe to find.

## Refrain

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Rev. Wilkinson

MUSICAL OFFERING.....“Kyrie”.....David Westbrook, tenor  
from *Messe de Minuit pour Noël* Dr. Will Andress, tenor  
Marc-Antoine Charpentie Richard Hemmings, bass  
[Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy] Ensemble (8:30)  
\*melody based on the French Christmas Carol Chancel Choir (11:00)  
“Joseph and his wife Mary” String Quartet

† DOXOLOGY .....No. 94  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose  
power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Romans 5:1-5.....Dr. Day  
New Testament, Page 188 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE.....THE GIFT OF HOPE IN THE MIDST OF HARD TIMES.....Dr. Day

I. First, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you expect and prepare for adversity, suffering, and testing.

II. Second, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you choose an attitude of gratitude and rejoicing rather than resentment.

III. Third, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you realize that without adversity and testing that there would be no preparation for service or spiritual maturity.

IV. Fourth, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you believe God is faithful, even when things don't make sense.

V. Finally, you will find hope in the midst of hard times when you believe in the promise of eternal life.

† \*HYMN OF INVITATION.....“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”.....No. 218  
*(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS.....Dr. Rhoads

*We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ’s holy church, and bid you welcome to the congregation of First United Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.*

BENEDICTION .....Dr. Rhoads

SENDING FORTH.....*O Holy Child of Bethlehem*.....Ensemble (8:30)  
FOREST GREEN Chancel Choir (11:00)

POSTLUDE.....*Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*.....E. Ray Peebles  
arr. Gordon Young