

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Celebration of Worship – *Fourth Sunday of Advent* – 12.24.17

PRELUDE.....“Gloria” from *Christmas Cantata*.....E. Ray Peebles
Daniel Pinkham Brass Ensemble
[Glory to God in the Highest! Peace on earth and goodwill to all!]

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Rev. Wilkinson

INTROIT.....*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*.....Chancel Choir
arr. Sir David Willcocks Brass Ensemble

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION.....Rev. Wilkinson

† HYMN OF PRAISE“New Creation”

[adapted from three Charles Wesley hymns, sing to the tune of

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”]

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace__! Hail the Son 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.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be.

Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;

Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder love and praise.

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 885.....Rev. Wilkinson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLEDrs. Cynthia & Keith Payne
John Payne

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*I Wonder As I Wander*.....Kay Hutchinson, alto
John Jacob Niles

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Matthew 2:1-12.....Dr. Goad
New Testament, Page 2 in your Pew Bible

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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.*

†
**CHILDREN’S BLESSING.....Billie Beck

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.....“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”.....No. 224

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.....Chancel Choir
arr. Dan Forrest Brass Ensemble

† DOXOLOGYNo. 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.....II Corinthians 5:17.....Dr. Day
New Testament, Page 221 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE.....**THE POWER OF HOPE**.....Dr. Day

I. First, enter into a divine partnership with God.

II. Second, admit you need to change.

III. Third, ask for the power and believe you have been given the power to change - dare to change.

IV. Fourth, try giving yourself and all your problems to God - let go and let God.

V. Finally, practice love and good will towards others, because the power to change your life responds to love.

† *HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Joy to the World”.....No. 246
(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.....Rev. Wilkinson
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.

BENEDICTIONDr. Rhoads

SENDING FORTH.....*O Holy Child of Bethlehem*.....Chancel Choir
FOREST GREEN

POSTLUDE.....*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*.....E. Ray Peebles
arr. Keith Chapman



Banner Carrier: Carter Cox; **Acolytes:** Trevor Cox, Will Brady; **Crucifer:** Mason Brady

† *Those who are able may stand.* ‡ *Latecomers may be seated at these times.*

♦ **COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED AT 9:30AM IN THE SANCTUARY AND NOON IN COUCH CHAPEL.**

* **IF YOU WISH TO JOIN** the First United Methodist Church family, please come forward at this time.

***Children leaving the service for Children's Chapel may be picked up after the service:*

• *3-4 years (8:30 & 11:00): Children's Ministry Center*

• *K5-3RD graders (11:00): Dawson Building, Room 208, behind the Sanctuary*