

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Celebration of Worship – *First Sunday After Christmas Day* – 12.31.17

PRELUDE..... “Andante Tranquillo” from *Sonata III*.....Robert Roberge, organ
Felix Mendelsohn

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

INTROIT.....*Joy to the World!*.....Chancel Choir
arr. John Rutter

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

† HYMN OF PRAISE“Angels from the Realms of Glory”..... No. 220

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 889.....Dr. Rhoads

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*In the Bleak Midwinter*.....Elizabeth Beck, violin
arr. Alison Beck Alison Beck, piano

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Luke 2:25-32.....Rev. Wilkinson
New Testament, Page 71 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.*

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**CHILDREN’S BLESSING..... Staci Zeagler

JOYS & CONCERNS Rev. Joyce

MORNING PRAYER Bishop William Hutchinson

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.....“Away in a Manger”.....No. 217

† OFFERTORY PRAYERDr. Rhoads

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Scarborough Carol*.....Sarah Wilkerson, soprano
arr. Kirby Shaw Chancel Choir

† 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.....Revelation 22:1-5.....Rev. Joyce
New Testament, Page 316 in your Pew Bible

MESSAGE.....**JOY TO THE WORLD**.....Rev. Joyce

Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, shining like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb through the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit each month. The tree's leaves are for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more. They won't need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine on them, and they will rule forever and always.

This stunning image of the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city that reflects God's coming kingdom, captures the reality of what it means to proclaim "Joy to the World." Our song is not merely about wishful thinking, but about the assurance of the redemption and restoration of all creation! The birth of Jesus, our Savior, is the beginning of the world's longed for hope, and his death and resurrection are the culmination of blessing that actually reverses the curse of sin and death. And the joy that follows is realized in all of creation. So let heaven and nature sing for joy, and the wonders of his love, because the Lord is come!

† *HYMN OF INVITATION....."The First Noel".....No. 245
(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.

BENEDICTIONBishop William Hutchinson

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

POSTLUDE.....*Carillon on "Come, All Ye Shepherds"*.....Robert Roberge, organ
Gordon Young



Acolytes: Avery Adams, Charlie Adams

Crucifer: Garland Barrett

† *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*

Childcare for infants through 4 years is available from 8:15 to 12:15 in the Children's Ministry Center. From the sanctuary, follow the sign located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Dawson Building. Outdoor access is located on the corner of Douglas and Milam Streets.