



Welcome to United Church of Fayetteville

We welcome you to our community of faith and are glad you have joined us for worship. Our congregation is theologically diverse, with roots in the American Baptist and Presbyterian Church (USA) traditions. As a strong community of faith, we are accepting of all people. Please ask any member about our life together.

Sunday, December 18, 2022

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Minute for Mission

Christmas Eve Offering ECHO

Greeting of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Prelude

Prelude on "Cranham"
Jon Bergman, Director of Music Ministries

A. Heron

For Reflection *"All human beings are also dream beings. Dreaming ties all mankind together."* Jack Kerouac

Advent Call to Worship

God sends visions of the world as it can be.

We lit the first candle to remind us to look for the light of God's Word that shines for us always.

God fills the world with clues and signs of the wonders to come.

We lit the second candle to remind us to keep our eyes open for hints of God's presence in the world

God sends greetings to the ones favored for God's purposes.

We lit the third candle to remind us to accept our opportunities to be servants of God for the sake of the world.

God fills our waking and sleeping with dreams of guidance, of purpose and of hope.

We light the fourth candle to remind us to pay attention to the voices of the night, the whispers of the wise and the leading of our spirits.

Together, let us worship the Lord.

Hymn

Once in Royal David's city

Prayer of Praise

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Most holy God: We ask you for signs and wonders, but often fail to see what you place before us. We pray for answers and guidance, but often fail to pay attention to your response. Forgive us. Grant us your Spirit, so that once again our eyes may see and our ears may hear. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Offering God our Lives, God's Tithe, and our Pledges

Offertory Anthem

People Look East

arr. K. L. Scott

*People, look East. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen
People, look East and sing today:
Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together
People, look East and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the Word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

The Doxology with Alleluias

**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!**

Prayer of Dedication

Hebrew Scripture Reading – Isaiah 7:11-14

Ask a sign of the LORD your God;
let it be deep as Sheol
or high as heaven.

**But Ahaz said,
I will not ask,
and I will not put the LORD to the test.**

Then Isaiah said:

“Hear then, O house of David!
Is it too little for you to weary mortals,
that you weary my God also?

**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child
and shall bear a son,
and shall name him Immanuel.**

Gloria

**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**

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25

Meditation

Dreaming of Christmas: The Dream Catcher

Rev. Dr. Linda D. Even

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

The Lord’s Prayer

**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.
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

The Benediction

Postlude

I Wonder as I Wander

arr. M. Hayes

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Thursday, December 22th – 6:30 pm – Handbell Rehearsal, 7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

REACHING DR. EVEN: Please contact her at 315-637-3186, ext. 104 or lindaeven@theucf.org. or call her home, 315-445-3002.

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Rev. Dr. Linda D. Even, Pastor

Jonathan Bergman, Director of Music Ministries

Diana Wolpert, Administrative Assistant

Robert Craft, Videographer

Our Commitment to Mission:

An expression of our hope

“We are a Jubilee community,
inclusive and united
to celebrate God’s grace through worship,
to demonstrate Christ’s love
by caring for one another and all people in need,
to cultivate the Spirit’s gifts in all people,
and to reach out and disciple others in the Good News of our faith.

We invite all people to join us
in ministries of praise, love, and concern.”

(from the United Church of Fayetteville)

Statement of Mission,” By-laws: Article III A)

**A COMMUNITY OF FAITH PROVIDING NURTURE, STRENGTH, AND DIRECTION
FOR LIVING TODAY IN GOD’S WORLD**

