

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 15, 2024 - 10 a.m.

INTROIT Alpha Brass & Salvation Army
"Fantasy on French Carols"—Harold Burgmayer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GREETING**

MUSIC FOR GATHERING Alpha Brass & Salvation Army
"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" - Joy Webb

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY**

Jessica McCleery, Skylar and Sydni
Light two purple candles

ONE: We have lit again the first two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, the candle of joy.

ONE: As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations we will share and those we love. The prophet Zephaniah calls us to shout for joy, because God will transform the people. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angels brought "Good news of a great joy, which shall be to all people." The good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of Shalom are still "tidings of great joy" for us today.

ALL: The Bible tells us to rejoice in God always. The third candle reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ.

Light the pink candle.

ONE: God of Joy, thank you for the excitement and delight we experience at this joyful time of year.

ALL: Let us share God's joy with others, so that they too will be filled with the Holy Spirit. Amen!

***HYMN** "Joy to the World" #246

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

COVENANT OF BAPTISM Hunter, Ryder & Walker Cortes
Parents: Carlos & Hayley Cortes
Grandparents: Tito & Rosa Cortes
Uncle, Aunt and Cousins: Matt and Maria Falkenberry, Ryan and Conner

HYMN OF RESPONSE "Joy to the World" #246

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

OFFERING TO GOD

SALVATION ARMY MINISTRY Mike Wolfe
OFFERTORY Alpha Brass & Salvation Army
"David of the White Rock" - Ray Bowes
(soloist—Mike Wolfe)

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Mike Wolfe

ANTHEM Alpha Brass & Salvation Army
"Away in a Manger"—arr. John van Gulik

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Maria Falkenberry

LORD'S PRAYER (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.

***GOSPEL** Maria Falkenberry

Luke 2:8-15 (NLT)

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth

to those with whom God is pleased." ¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

This is God's Word for God's people today.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Rev. Boruff

HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun 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.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

RESPONSE

Be people of joy.
We will let joy live in our hearts and share the joy of Christ with all we meet.

MUSIC FOR SENDING Alpha Brass & Salvation Army
"Shining Star" - Peter Graham

***BENEDICTION**

**Please stand as you are able.*

WELCOME

Welcome to worship on Sundays and all programs & ministries throughout the week!

Announcements

- **GUESTS:** Welcome! There is a gift bag for you at the Welcome Center. Glad you joined us and hope you will come again!
- **FOOD@FIRST:** 69 guests were served last Sunday. It was a blessing to serve the community.
- **PICTORIAL DIRECTORY:** Have your photo taken as an individual, couple or family through the month of December on Sunday mornings before and after worship. If this is your church, you belong in the directory!
- **SNOWBALLS OF HOPE:** Bring new gloves, hats and socks to roll into "balls" and "deliver" them to Pastor Corinne and Ally at a designated time in the worship service on Jan. 5. Donations benefit our community in need.
- **RECOGNITION OF RETIRING STAFF:** Peg Peter and Kathy Kean will be recognized for their many years of service to this congregation and community. Let's say "Thanks! On Jan. 5.
- **OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Are available on a table in front of the office. Don't find your name on envelopes? We have more! Let the church office know and you will receive them.
- **POINSETTIAS: LAST DAY** to purchase in memory or honor of loved ones. Information & forms at the Welcome Center.

We give thanks for today's:

Ushers: Dick Falkenberry, Bonnie Belangee, Ryan Falkenberry, Jeff Dyer

Greeters: David Crane, Pat Walker

Fellowship Time: DeWayne and Gail Landwehr

First United Methodist Staff:

Director of Music and Organist: Susan Finger
Pianist: Michele Murray
Finance: Gene Brueggen
Program Support Coordinator: Kathy Kean
Communications Coordinator: Peg Peter
Production Director: Matt Stout

Digital Communications: Matt & Erin Stout
Security: Richard Falkenberry
Sound Technicians: Jim Hudson, Richard Cassidy, Mark Murray
Custodian: Eddie Stephens, Ann Bull

Weekly Schedule

Sun 12/15

9:30 am	Directory Photos	Wesley Room	Downtown
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 am	YA Gathering	Youth Area	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 pm	Community Cafe		Downtown

Mon 12/16

5:00 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park
6:00 pm	AA Big Book Study	East/West	Downtown
6:00 pm	Advent Bible Study	North/South	Downtown

Tues 12/17

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
4:00 pm	Grant Sub-committee	Conference Room	Downtown
6:30 pm	Liberty Christian Concert	Sanctuary	Downtown
6:30 pm	Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall	Downtown

Wed 12/18

3:00 pm	Coffee with Corinne		Facebook
5:00 pm	Exercise		Davis Park
6:00 pm	First Kids		Downtown
6:00 pm	Wesley Bells		Downtown

Thurs 12/19

Fri 12/20

9:00 am	Friday Bible Study	North/South	Downtown
12:00 pm	Downtown Devotion		Facebook

Sat 12/21

10:00 am	AA Meeting	North/South Parlor	Downtown
2:00 pm	Blue Christmas	Sanctuary	Downtown

Sun 12/22

9:30 am	Photo Directory	Wesley Room	Downtown
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 am	Youth Group	Youth Area	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 pm	Food @ First		Downtown



First United Methodist

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 15, 2024 ~ 10 a.m.

Pastors: Corinne Boruff
Director of Family Ministries: Ally Hall
Ministers: Congregation