

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
December 13, 2020 - 10:00am - ONLINE WORSHIP
The Third Sunday in Advent / Gaudete Sunday

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Bell Prelude: "Savior of the Nations, Come" *arr. Kathleen Wissinger*
Organ Prelude: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" *J.S. Bach, ed. Diane Bish*

Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Hymn:** "Angels From the Realms of Glory" *UMH #220*

For those who need to see the full music, it is attached at the end of this document
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- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king! | 3) Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king! |
| 2) Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king! | 4) Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king! |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Advent Lighting Prayer: *(adapted from Derek Weber, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>)*

O Lord, we want everything to look festive, this year especially. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition; because it lifts our hearts; because it makes us feel just a bit like children again. We deck our halls because someone is coming.

Leader: The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises us the deep joy of God's presence.

So we light today the candles of hope and love, and then the candle of joy. We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beauty of this season – not just for the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. Let this light dance with joy for the promise of Emmanuel, God-with-us. O Come, O come, Emmanuel!

Prayer Chorus: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vs. 6) UMH #211
*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Time of Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer lifting Celebrations and Concerns

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; 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.

Living Our Gratitude

♪ *Please continue to support your church family during this time of “social distancing”. Enjoy the musical selection as a time to give thanks to God for all with which you have been blessed.
Use the QR code to the right or give online here:*

<https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give/>



Offertory: “There’s Still My Joy”

*w/m by Chapman, Manchester, & Rollings
Recorded by the Indigo Girls*

*I brought my tree down to the shore,
The garland and the silver star,
To find my peace and grieve no more,
To heal this place inside my heart.*

*On every branch I laid some bread,
And hungry birds filled up the sky.
They rang like bells around my head;
They sang my spirit back to life.*

C | *One tiny Child can change the world*
H | *One shining Light can show the way*
O | *Through all my tears, for what I've lost*
R | *There's still my joy*
U | *There's still my joy for Christmas day*
S

*The snow comes down on empty sand
There's tinsel moonlight on the waves
My soul was lost but here I am
So this must be amazing grace. [Chorus]*

Children’s Message – A special moment with the Pastor just for kids

Special Music: “Heaven Everywhere”
Evie Kraynak, soloist / Bryan Latimer, Piano

*w/m by Francesca Battistelli
and Ben Glover*

*I hear the bells, they're ringing loud & clear,
You can't help but love this time of year
It's Christmastime, there's something in the air
There's a little bit of Heaven everywhere*

*Somewhat there's a little more of love
And maybe there's a little less of us
Or maybe we're just slightly more aware
There's a little bit of Heaven everywhere*

Chorus: *It's the smile on a man
who has finally found hope
It's the tears of a mother
whose child has come home
It's the joy that we feel
and the love that we share
There's a little bit of Heaven everywhere
There's a little bit of Heaven everywhere*

*It's funny how it takes a holiday
To show us how
the world could truly change
If we all took the time to really care
There'd be a little more
of Heaven everywhere*

*It's the grace that we show
to a world that needs hope
It's giving our lives knowing
they're not our own
It's the joy that we feel
and the love that we share*

*There's a little bit of Heaven everywhere
Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plain
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Hallelujah, halleljuah*

*It's the joy that we feel
and the love that we share
There's a little bit of Heaven everywhere
There's a little bit of Heaven everywhere
Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plain*

Scripture Lesson:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 86

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. . . ¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Response to the Word

L: This is the Word of God for the people of God

P: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"HEARTS AND LIVES"

Pastor Amy Terhune

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

L: The Lord be with you,

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for the day
when a voice would cry out in the wilderness,
and the glory of the Lord would be revealed.
And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***P: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!***

L: Holy are you, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ,
Whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.
He humbled himself in obedience to your will, and feely accepted death on a cross.
On the night he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said
“Take; eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you,
gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this all of you; this is my blood
of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
As often as you drink of this, remember me.
And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Christ Jesus,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

L: Let us pray: Holy God, in this time of illness, your people cannot gather together.
Therefore, pour out your Holy Spirit on us wherever we are;
Bless the unique offering of bread and juice
in each household within reach of my voice.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ;
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast together at his heavenly banquet.
Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

At this time, you are invited to consume the bread and juice you’ve set aside at your own home for the sharing of the Sacrament.

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn:**

“Joy to the World”

UMH #246

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>3) No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make his blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as the curse is found.</p> <p>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.</p> |
|--|--|

***Benediction**

L: And now return to the world in joy. Do not settle for mere contentment or accept brief stints of happiness, but tap into the deep joy of God’s presence, which carries us through even the most sorrowful and difficult days, and know that God the Shepherd, Christ the Savior, and the Holy Spirit are your companions through each day.

P: Amen! We go with joy to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

***Postlude:**

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

arr. Jeanne Cotter

*** You are invited to stand if you are able**

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Senior Pastor.....	Rev. Amy Lee Brun Terhune
Office Administrator/Treasurer.....	Dina Draper
Custodian.....	Tina Castle
Director of Music & Chancel Choir.....	Rod Bieber
Organist.....	Bryan Latimer
Bell Choir Director.....	Catherine McMichael
Praise Band Director.....	Lance Coyle
Nursery Supervisors.....	Diane Maturen, Aimee Priem, & Carolyn Rottiers
Audio Visual Technicians.....	Nic Courier, Brian Hatch, Andy Sharrow, Izzy Terhune

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Follow us on Social Media!

YouTube: **Saginaw First UMC**

Twitter: **FirstUMCofSaginaw**

Instagram: **saginawfumc**

Facebook: **First United Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Even virtually, be sure to check in on Facebook! The more of us that do so, the more people learn about who we are!

OUR PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT are extended to Lois Phillips, Linda Phillips, Tim & Gloria Katch, and family, on the death of Lois' grandson (and Linda, Tim, and Gloria's nephew) Paul Phillips Jr. on November 25, 2020.

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abbe, Connor Ashmall, Ed Babinski, John & Myrna Cammin, Jim Cloud (now at Hoyt Skilled Nursing Facility), Bonnie & Pat Dole, Chris Everett, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Glenn Hinds, Barb Kropp, Jane MacQueen, Walt & Joyce Maltman, Camille Marek, David & Cheryl Marks, John Mertz, Merlyn Mondol, Dick & Sharon Mueller, Dave & Jean Nelson, Ron Perry, Al & Teddy Reichard, Anne Ruffle, Eugenia Shek, and Louise Yeager. Also, please pray for UMCOR and other organizations who are working to alleviate suffering caused by flooding in our area, healing from the Covid-19 Virus, and a way to peace and equality for all people in God's world.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED due to rising Covid-19 case numbers in Saginaw County. Though it grieves us to do this, our leadership feels it to be the safest course. We will continue with Confirmation and Baptisms as planned, but only family members may attend in person.

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR 2021 PLEDGE CARDS. This helps the Finance Committee put together a realistic budget for the coming year. Pledge online [HERE](#) or on the church website at www.firstumcsaginaw.org/pledge. You can also submit your pledge card either in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or to the main office. You can also mail it in to: Saginaw First UMC, 4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638. You may also give online at www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give. Thank you!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION TODAY. Please secure for yourself some bread or crackers to use and some grape juice for today. Pastor Amy will lead us through the experience, and offer instruction as we go along. You can use any kind of bread or cracker (including gluten free) and several varieties of juice.

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OFFERING – Because we cannot collect toys and gifts for our backpack children, and because the school social workers have communicated with us that there are several families in financial difficult this holiday season, the Christmas Miracle Offering this year will go to our 48 backpack children. We are hoping to receive enough financial support to provide 48 families with a gift card that will enable them to buy gifts or food for their family at Christmas. These need to be ready to distribute by the week of December 14, so please donate soon and help us make the holiday a little brighter for needy families right here in our own community.



Christmas this year will unfortunately not be the way it's always been before. In this time of Covid-19, there are some traditions we simply cannot honor in traditional ways, but we hope to provide a meaningful experience this season regardless.

Advent begins November 29, and runs through December 6th, 13th, and 20th. We will continue to livestream worship, but cannot do in-person safely. **Taize Services** will run throughout December also only on Wednesday nights at 7pm for a mid-week opportunity to worship and receive spiritual sustenance.

Pastor Amy has found a **Children's Christmas Pageant** entitled, "Christmas Around the World", will be shared TODAY, December 6, 2020. Please tune in to support our children and youth! **All-Music Sunday** will be shared on December 20 via livestream at 10:00am.

Christmas Eve – Because cases are continuing to rise, it is looking like we will not be able to do in-person services as we had originally hoped. If our statistics in the county change, we will re-evaluate. We will air a Christmas Eve service of worship, lessons, carols, and candlelight on Thursday, December 24. The service will "premier" on our youtube channel at 4:00pm, but will be available for viewing together as a family anytime that evening and throughout the following days/weeks.

220 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2. Shep-herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions
 4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear; sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: Come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

week 1 → 1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 week 2 → 2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things
 week 3 → 6. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thy
 week 4 → 7. O come, De - sire of Na - tions bind all peop - les in one

is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here.
 far and nigh; to us the path of know - ledge show.
 jus - tice here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life;

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and cause us in her ways to go.
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em -
 de - liv - er us from earth - ly strife.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O is - ra - el.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry VENI EMMANUEL
 Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986 LM with Refrain
 MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United
 Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict

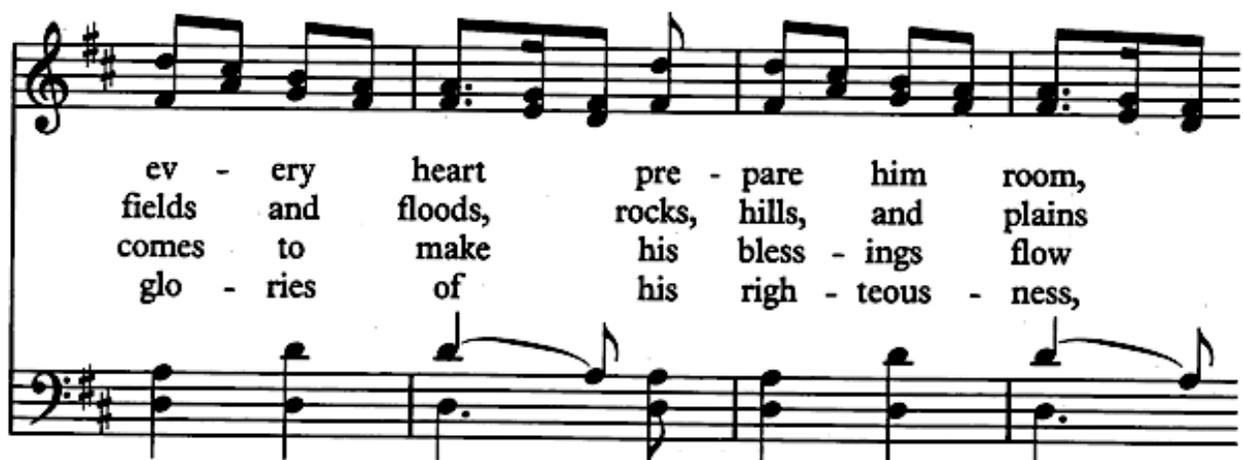
Joy to the World



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,



Let earth re - ceive her King; let
 Let all their songs em - ploy; while
 nor thorns in - fest the ground; he
 and makes the na - tions prove the



ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 comes to make his bless - ings flow
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

WORDS: Issac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98:4-9)
 MUSIC: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH
 CM with Repeat

and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 far as the curse is found, far
 and won - ders of his love, and

and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his

heaven and na - ture sing, and
 peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 as the curse is found, far
 won - ders of his love, and

sing,
 joy,
 found,
 love,

and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his

heaven, and heaven, and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing,
 joy,
 found,
 love,