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## THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

December 11, 2011 • 10:30 a.m. • Third Sunday of Advent/Children's Christmas Program

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“As we enter this holy place, we come in awe and silence.”

Welcome to First United Methodist Church. We hope your worship experience here this morning is a truly meaningful one for you. If you are visiting with us and are looking for a church home, we hope you will worship with us again. A nursery is provided for infants and toddlers. If you are a guest, please sign our guestbook in the Narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please speak to Pastor Joe following this service. Thank you.

\* Invites those who are able to stand.

### **Church Chimes**

**Greetings, Announcements, Passing of the Peace** *(Please sign the attendance pad found at the pew near the center aisle, and pass it on down the row, noting the names of those worshipping near you as it is returned to the center aisle.)*

### **Prelude**

“Advent Pastoral”

Southbridge

*(Making the transition from getting to worship to being in worship, we use the music of the Prelude to draw us into God's abiding presence.)*

### **Lighting of the Altar & Peace Candles**

Acolytes

### **Introit**

“Light the Advent Candle”

Chancel Choir

### **\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist

Leader: God is in our midst; do not fear.  
God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

**People: God gathers us for this time of worship.  
God claims us and promises us a home.**

Leader: Rejoice in God, whatever your circumstances.  
Remember the good fortune God has shared with you.

**People: We will not worry as we seek God's peace.  
We open our hearts and minds to God's leading.**

### **\*Hymn of Praise**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

UMH 220

### **\*Opening Prayer**

Liturgist

Leader: O God, hear us as we pray:

**People: Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for victories over temptation, for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Brian Smith Family

Leader: “Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 12:2-6)

**People: Our world knows much of sorrow and sadness.**

Leader: But we may rejoice, for our God has come to turn our weeping into laughter, our mourning into gladness.

**People: This day we light the candle of joy.**

Leader: May the brightness of God's gift of joy shine in our world and in our lives.

### ***Call to Confession***

Liturgist

Leader: God's winnowing fork separates faithful ones from the unfaithful, honest ones from the dishonest, gentle ones from those who vent their anger against the innocent. God seeks to remove the chaff from our lives that we might recognize our own true worth as God's children. Let us seek God's healing.

### ***Silent Prayers of Confession***

Liturgist

### ***Corporate Prayer of Confession***

Liturgist

**All: All-knowing God, we confess our worry and anxiety over unimportant matters. We admit the fears that make us defensive instead of loving. We acknowledge our resentment over losses we have sustained and oppression we have suffered. We recognize that we have been far more concerned for our own welfare than for the building up of Christ's body, the church. In our congregation, we have focused on survival more than service. We look for what we can gain more than for what we can give. Re-establish your rule among us, we pray, and save us from ourselves. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### ***Assurance of Forgiveness***

Pastor Joe

### ***Prayer Response***

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH 204

### ***Stewardship Presentation— "The Giving Tree"***

### ***Prayer for the Reading and Proclamation of the Word***

Liturgist

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

### ***\*Gospel Lesson***

Luke 12:13-21, NT pg. 70

Liturgist

Leader: This is the good news of Jesus Christ.

**All: Praise be to You O Christ, for this Your Holy Gospel.**

### ***Meditation***

Rev. Joseph Kim

### ***Children's Sunday School Christmas Message***

### ***The Prayers of the Church***

The Pastoral Prayer • 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.**

### ***The Offering of Our Gifts to God, Pledge Cards for 2012 and Marcy Newberry Gifts***

## **Offertory Invitation**

Pastor: Today God's voice is heard through the ministries we help to provide, here in our church, and in outreach to all the world's people. We bear witness to the light that is coming into the world through personal caring and corporate sharing. May all our giving be generous!

## **Offertory Music**

"At the Cradle"

Logan

## **\*Praise to God (Doxology)**

UMH 94

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

Pastor: Let us pray together.

**All: In our unworthiness, O God, may we yet bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah. May the brokenhearted be led to enriching new celebrations. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as persons chosen by you to do great things. By your mercy, may the hungry be fed not only with bread but also with opportunities to feed others. We give ourselves as your servants, for no gift is complete without personal commitment. Thank you, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits rejoice in the coming of our Savior. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **\*Hymn of Commitment**

"Here I Am, Lord"

UMH 593

## **\*The Benediction**

Pastor Joe

## **\*Postlude**

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Thygerson

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*UMH - United Methodist Hymnal    FWS - Faith We Sing Supplement*



*The single red rose on the altar is given in memory of their dear brother, George Paul Skirha, former church, choir and bible class member, by Rose Ann and Jim Skirha.*

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNALS** are available — please ask an usher.

**TODAY — Sunday School Christmas program; Stewardship Sunday; Marcy Newberry gifts due; Coffee Hour**

**NEXT SUNDAY— Circle of Love offering; Holy Baptism; Coffee Hour**

**ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY: Liturgist: Caryn Burek**

**Greeters: John & Peggy George**

**Acolytes: Ushers**

*The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Offertory Invitation and Offertory prayer were reprinted with permission of the publisher from Led by Love, by Lavon Bayler (New York, NY: The Pilgrim Press, Copyright © 1996).*

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