



December 3, 2023 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | First Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Chancel Choir

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 211, verses 1 - 4 †

O Come, O Come Emmanuel | United Methodist Hymnal

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Keever Family

We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE †

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE †

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. David C. Freeman

SONG

Be Near Me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

ADVENT PRAYER

Rev. Natasha Murray

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

GOSPEL LESSON †

Hal Hedges

Mark 13: 24-37 | Pew Bible, New Testament Page 48

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. David C. Freeman

OFFERTORY

Elaine Bultena

What Child is This | Mark Hayes

DOXOLOGY †

In the Bleak Midwinter | United Methodist Hymnal 221

What Can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

TABLE BLESSING

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

826 Come, Lord Jesus, Our Guest to Be



INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP †

As a community and individuals, responding to God's grace, we seek to be good neighbors to make Little Rock a place where all God's children **THRIVE**. Through our spiritual journey and life in the community, we will work for the core values we believe all God's children need, Trust, Health, Relationships, Imagination, Value, and Education.

HYMN OF SENDING 196 †

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus | United Methodist Hymnal

During the singing of the hymn, individuals desiring to join the church are asked to come to the chancel so the pastors may offer membership vows and welcome you to the congregation.

Reception of New Members

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTION †

CHORAL BENEDICTION †

Beautiful Savior | F.M. Christiansen

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Rondeau in D | David Laskey

James Stanley

And The Table Will Be Wide By Jan Richardson

And the table
will be wide.
And the welcome
will be wide.
And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.
And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.

And we will open our hands
to the feast
without shame.
And we will turn
toward each other
without fear.
And we will give up
our appetite for despair.
And we will taste
and know
of delight.

And we will
come as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come
unhindered and free.
And our aching
will be met
with bread.
And our sorrow
will be met
with wine.

And we will become bread
for a hungry world.
And we will become drink
for those who thirst.
And the blessed
will become the blessing.
And everywhere
will be the feast.

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

Clergy: Rev. David C. Freeman, Rev. Natasha Murray, Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

Music & Worship Arts: James Stanley, Shannon Webb, Chancel Choir, Elaine Bultena

Audio/Visual: Christopher Cone

Liturgist: Hal Hedges

Altar Guild: Laura Elrod, Paula Johnson

Altar Flowers: To the Glory of God and in honor of John Sherman's birthday, given by Bob & Mary Ann McKuin.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Requesting Prayer:

Coralie Hawkins, Shawn McMurray, Terri Watkins, Julie Diamant, Bob Nelson, Scott Holladay, Joy Rockenbach, Anna Grace Clark Watt, Nick Thompson, Hatley Rodgers, Heather Rose, Heather Hill, Kaye Hoover, Joanne Ownbey, John & Linda Fordyce, Bill Lewis, Ann Marie Trammell, Bobby Williams, Rosie Howard, Jeff Crowe, Mark Roberts

Sympathy:

To Helen Herr following the death of her husband, Brad Jordan, on November 24th.

To the friends and family of Bill Owens following his death on November 25th.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, December 3, 2023

- 9:00 am First Word (Cokesbury)
- 10:00 am Advent Fair in the gym
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 pm Grief Expressions
- 5:00 pm YOUth at First
- 5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship

Monday, December 4, 2023

- 9:00 am Flower Girls
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 3:15 pm Washington Basketball Practice
- 5:30 pm Capital Campaign Team Orientation
- 6:30 pm Adult Intro to Taiko Drumming

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

- 7:00 am Tuesday Morning Bible Study
- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 10:30 am Worship Planning
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 5:30 pm Lama Tenzin Event (Cokesbury)

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

- 9:30 am CDC Chapel
- 1:00 pm Community Café
- 3:15 pm Washington Basketball Practice
- 5:45 pm Center Street Ringers

Thursday, December 7, 2023

- 3:15 pm Washington Basketball Practice
- 7:00 pm Combined Choirs Rehearsal

Friday, December 8, 2023

- 3:15 pm Washington Basketball Practice

Saturday, December 9, 2023

- 10:00 am Music Ministry Rehearsal
- 2:00 pm Memorial service for Brad Jordan with reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

MOMENT IN MINISTRY



WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN LITTLE ROCK. We have embraced our role in urban ministry. Our members and friends come because they are attracted to our vitality, warmth, friendliness, and energy. They stay because we travel with them on their journey.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNALS. An usher will be happy to help you find the large print bulletins and United Methodist Hymnals on the center table in the Narthex, as you enter the church. Please return the hymnal to the table at the conclusion of the service.

AUDIO AND VIDEO OF TODAY'S SERVICE IS AVAILABLE. CD's and DVD's of today's service are available by calling the church office at 501.372.2256 or by emailing Lesley Andrews at landrews@fumclr.org.

ATTENTION PARENTS. We understand that worshiping with children can be an adventure, but it is essential to their growth in Christ. If your child is staying in worship, please see an usher if you would like a worship bag. However, one is available on the second floor outside the Sanctuary if you desire a nursery. If you need assistance, please see an usher or a member of the Hospitality Team.