

# Faith United Methodist Church

January 3, 2021



Fourth Sunday in Advent

## Centering

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Romans 13:11-12

## Welcome

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Music

## Prayer of Illumination

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.**

## Music

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem,

saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Word of God, for the People of God. Thanks Be to God. **Amen.**

Children's Time

Special Music

Witness

*Star Lights*

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the World

God of the ages, we praise you, for in the dawn of time you created the world, sending light by your Word to dispel darkness. In Jesus Christ you began a new creation, sending him to be the Light of the world, to drive away fear and despair, and to rule in peace and justice, holiness and love.

Especially we thank you

for the order and beauty of your creation . . .

for coming in Jesus Christ to share our human life . . .

for the place you give us in your continuing creation . . .

for the promise of peace among nations, and justice for all peoples . . .

for the Church as the sign of your coming kingdom . . .

Mighty God, prepare the world for your rule, for we long for the day when there shall be no more crying or tears, and death will be destroyed. Help us to share the ministry of Christ and be agents of his compassion.

Especially we pray

for the nations of the earth and peace in the world . . .

for victims and survivors of violence . . .

for those who are sick and suffering . . .

for our family and friends . . .

for the Church and those who serve in Christ's name . . .

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering & Prayer for the Gifts of the Community

O God, our hope, transform our gifts and the acts of giving into ministries of love and compassion to all the persons this church serves in your name. **Amen.**

Music

Benediction

Go forth from this time and place, bear the light of Christ in all that you say and do. May the blessing of God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.  
Amen.

### Prayer List

Margaret Arceneaux  
Paul Arceneaux, Jr.  
Sidney Arceneaux  
Kim Craigen Ard  
Lucian Adams  
Dolores Anderson  
Johnny & Ovelia Battaglio  
Lloyd Betar  
Mary Bevil  
Bonnie Blankenship  
Donna Suppa Bolton  
Jo Bordeaux  
Pat Borel  
Glenda Brooks  
Jean Brooks  
Ann Campbell  
Norma Campbell  
Robert & Roxie Castilaw  
Jared Castolenia  
Matthew Cerda  
Tana Champeau  
Rebecca Chance  
Billie Cherry  
Kim Wilber Conn  
Derick Cooper  
Kyle & Beth Craigen  
Dakota Crutchfield  
Jimmy & Emily Davis  
Bobbie Dean

Mary Delafosse  
Tammy Dufour  
Julie Duplichan  
Keven Dupre  
Joe Floyd  
Lorene Green  
Rachel Grimmitt  
Connie Hebert  
MaryJo Hebert  
Danny & Kelsey Hurych  
David Hurych  
Edna & Raymond Jones  
Alice Kethley  
Leon Kethley  
Kristi Key  
Clyde Landry  
*Family of Gail Lauve*  
Christi Leblanc  
Fred Ledesma  
Alice & Louis Loftin  
Orianna Marchand  
Matt Markos  
Barbara Martin  
Joseph McGee  
Linda Meyers  
Jimmy Mott  
Ron & Michelle Mueller  
Joyce Murphy

Kelly Simmons Owens  
Jim Padgett  
John & Candance Perkins  
Melva Phillips  
Harlan Phipps  
Alfred Pierson  
Mercedes Pierson  
Justin Plake  
John Pool  
Kenny Puckett  
Buddy Renkema  
Nikki Castilaw Rice  
Edward Rivet  
Randy & Darlene Rivett  
Ezekiel Romero  
Joann Savelle  
Kathleen Sharp  
Jim & Loretta Shearer  
Brooke Simon  
Harriet Simpson  
James Sowell  
Kim Streed  
Bob Taylor  
Sadina Hammock Ward  
Mary Alice Weitzel  
Mary Rose Williams  
Gail Wright  
Greta Zeralsky

Arnold Northcut



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We are called to be:

**Transformed** by God's love, Christ's sacrifice and the Spirit's work in our lives.

**Engaged** with all of God's children from the small to the tall, the near and the far.

**Celebrate**, worship & praise God as we care for each other.

**Share** the Good News of God's love in our thoughts, words and deeds.

### Attributes

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