

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**December 17, 2023~9:30 A.M.**

*Welcome to Faith United Methodist Church. It is our heart and desire to **engage** the community of Waseca with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **equip** those who respond to be the next generation of disciples of Jesus Christ and **empower** them to go into the world as partners with God for the healing of the world.*

PRELUDE

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the Lord always.

**I will say it again: Rejoice!**

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

**The Lord is near.**

We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

**Let us worship God!**

HYMN....."God Almighty, We Are Waiting".....(Words on Screen)

UNISON PRAYER

**Blessed are you, Lord our God, ruler of the universe, for you have kept us in life, sustained us, and brought us to this holy season. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

RESPONSE....."O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".....UMH #211 (Refrain Only)

PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SINGING WITH CHILDREN

A CHRISTMAS READING FOR ALL TO PONDER

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

THE 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY.....UMH #95

OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Unison

**Father, you have done and are doing great things for us, and holy is your name. We offer to you ourselves, our time, and our possessions that through us your grace and favor may be know to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING.....Linda Griffin

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 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."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD!  
THANKS BE TO GOD!**

***THE FAITH CHOIR PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CANTATA  
"SIMPLY CAROLS"***

**Mark LaMont.....Narrator**

**Sing We Now of Christmas/He Is Born**

Traditional French Carols

**The First Nowell/What Child Is This?**

Traditional English Carols

**The Wexford Carol/The Snow Lay on the Ground**

Traditional Irish Carols

**Suo-Gan/All Through the Night**

Traditional Welsh Carols

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming/Silent Night**

Traditional German Carols

**O Little Town of Bethlehem/We Three Kings**

Traditional American Carols

A ONE MINUTE SERMON

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

**Come Holy Spirit, fill our voices with praise, so that all we speak will glorify you.  
Come Holy Spirit, give us such faith that we will go wherever you ask us to go.  
Come Holy Spirit, help us to be a friend like Jesus.  
Come Holy Spirit, warm our hearts, so that as we love our community, they see you.  
In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN....."Hark! the Herald Angels Sing".....UMH #240

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

**REMEMBER OUR CHURCH FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

**Colony Court:** Shirley Burdick, Gloria Rollag

**Janesville Nursing Home:** Nina Youngberg

**Lakeshore Inn:** Margaret Hasslen

**Latham Place:** Joe Tollefson

**Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna:** Ardella Draheim

**Prayer Requests for Sunday:** Sue Baldini, Tim Dahnert, Ron Dahnert, Gail Sauer, Beverly Pippenger, Deene Pippenger, Bob Stephan, Gloria Rollag, Margaret Hasslen, Sandy Barber, Ardella Draheim, the Middle East, government officials, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and pain.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Please bring in your signed Christmas card to share with our church family and put it on the bulletin board by the front door.

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Christ Community Church will be hosting the Christmas Meal on December 25 at noon at 2200 4<sup>th</sup> St. NE. All senior citizens and those who will be alone on Christmas are invited. Sign up at Christ Community Church at 507-835-2235 or the Senior Center at 507-835-4552. Please sign up by December 18 and specify if you need the meal delivered (limit of 5 dinners per household for take out or delivery). There is no charge for the meal. Free will donations accepted.

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Elizabeth Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 20 at 2:30 pm in the Lakeview Room.

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We will celebrate Christmas Eve during our morning worship service at 9:30 am on Sunday, December 24. This is a departure from tradition but gives us a unique opportunity to invite friends, neighbors and others who will be getting ready to travel and may not have an opportunity to attend a Christmas Eve worship service later in the day. So let's get the word out to the community, Christmas Eve at Faith Church at 9:30 am. We will have some special music and yes, we will sing our closing hymn by candle light.

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

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12/17/2023 (Sun.)	Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 am - Worship Service with Choir Cantata 10:30 am - Fellowship
12/18/2023 (Mon.)	Newsletter Deadline 3:00-4:00 pm - Conversation, Bible & Friends (*LV Room)
12/20/2023 (Wed.)	2:30 pm - Elizabeth Circle (*LV Room) 7:00 pm - Choir Practice (*LV Room)
12/24/2023 (Sun.)	Fourth Sunday of Advent Pancake Sunday 9:30 am - Christmas Eve Worship Service

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\*Lakeview Room   \*\*Fellowship Hall

**Administrative Assistant Hours this Week:**

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

**Pastor's Office Hours this Week:**

Monday & Thursday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Rev. Jon Schultz Contact Info.:**

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