

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
FAITH CHOIR CANTATA
DECEMBER 21, 2025~9:30 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

Beloved, God calls to us through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

Sometimes, angels surprise us with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real to ignore.

We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

HYMN.....“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”UMH #204

UNISON PRAYER

O Holy God of Promise, you did not ask us to believe what is easy; you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lay Reader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

Lay Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

(Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath)

PASSING THE PEACE *Let us pass the peace of Christ to one another.*

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....."Breath of Heaven" Alison Prange

DOXOLOGY.....UMH #95

OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Unison

Faithful God, we bring our gifts and lay down our plans, trusting that your Spirit can shape our offering into something greater than we imagined. Let these gifts and our lives be signs of obedience and hope. May they help carry Christ into a world still longing for peace, hungry for love, and needing redemption. We pray in the name of the one who is Emmanuel—God with us. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING.....Bob Hunter

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD!

THANKS BE TO GOD!

FAITH CHOIR PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CANTATA

“SING CHRISTMAS”

Narrators.....Mark & Terra Lamont

Sound Tech.....Bob Stephan

The Carolin’ Reel

Includes: Joy to the World
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Deck the Hall
O Come All Ye Faithful

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (Peace on Earth)

Candlelight Carol Medley

Silent Night
What Child Is This
Angels From the Realms of Glory

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Christmas Praise!

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Joy to the World
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Angels From the Realms of Glory
Go, Tell it on the Mountain

MESSAGE.....“When Plans Fall Apart”Rev. Dong Hun Shin

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.....“O Little Town of Bethlehem”.....UMH #230

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:

Benedictine Owatonna: Les Wells

Colony Court: Margaret Dahnert

Foxdale: Sherry Scholljegerdes

Lakeshore Inn: Peggy Deno

Latham Place: Joe Tollefson, Wally Ruedy

Prayer Requests for Sunday: The Baldini Family, Gail Sauer, Kathy Dahnert Johnson, Margaret Dahnert, Les Wells, Sherry Scholljegerdes, Anna Born, Lori Schneidewind, Darla Dahnert, Nancy Tollefson, DJ Choi, Karen Ferch, Lona Williamson, Jon Schultz, Jill Ledbetter, Ed Herbig, Bud Deno, Neil Fruechte, Roger Walker, the Ukraine, the Middle East, government officials, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and pain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be sure to sign the red attendance pads at the ends of the pews. To assist the ushers, please tear off the page after signing and leave it on top of the attendance pad.

On Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00pm we will have our Christmas Eve worship service.

Please note changes to Stacy's schedule with the upcoming holidays. Next week, the week of December 22, Stacy will be **in** the office on Monday, December 22. The week of December 29, she will be **in** the office on Monday, December 29 and Wednesday, December 31.

Please note that Pastor Dong will be out of the office the week of December 29.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

12/21/2025 (Sun.)	Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30am – Worship Service with Choir Cantata 10:30am – Fellowship 2:00pm – Barb Klampe Piano Recital (**FH)
12/24/2025 (Wed.)	4:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
12/25/2025 (Thurs.)	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>
12/28/2025 (Sun.)	Pancake Sunday 9:30am – Worship Service 10:30am – Fellowship

*Lakeview Room **Fellowship Hall

Administrative Assistant Hours this Week:

Monday: 9:30am to 1:00pm

Rev. Dong Hun Shin Office Hours this Week:

Tuesday & Wednesday: 9:00am to 12:30pm

Rev. Dong Hun Shin Contact Info.:

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