

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Harry Jenkins, Associate Pastor

*"A Holy, Healthy, and Loving Community Striving to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"*



December 27, 2020  
"Christmastide"

## WORDS OF WELCOME

## LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

### ORGAN PRELUDE

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Lani Smith

Dr. Jessica Scott

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From the stillness of the blessed night of Jesus' birth

**People: We come before You, O God, in praise and thanksgiving.**

Leader: From the astounding news sung to the shepherds

**People: We thank You for the gift of Your Son.**

Leader: Let our hearts keep the joy and peace of Christmas always.

**People: Let our spirits rejoice in God's presence with us.**

Leader: Fill us with Your love, O God.

**People: Pour your peace upon us that we may be bearers of Your Good News.**

**ALL: AMEN!**

## OPENING HYMN

*"Joy to the World"*

Brett Miller, Music Director

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**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.**

**CAROL**----- "In the Bleak Midwinter" -----arr. by Harold Darke  
Sherezade Panthaki, soprano; Dr. Melody Meadows, organ

**GOSPEL LESSON: Galations 4:4-7**

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,  
in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.*

*And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,  
crying, 'Abba! Father!'*

*So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.*

**CAROL**----- "Sussex Carol" -----arr. by David Willcocks  
Sherezade Panthaki, soprano; Dr. Melody Meadows, organ

**SERMON**

*"News to Share"*

Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson

*(You are encouraged to use this space for sermon notes.)*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*“Go Tell It On the Mountain”*

Mr. Miller

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

**BENEDICTION**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

Dr. Scott

