

**Welcome visitors** – If you're new to First UMC, we do have print materials on the table at the back of the main level of the worship center... help yourself or just ask someone!

If children are with you, that's wonderful. There are children's activity bags on the coat tree at the back of the sanctuary; a special children's time, "From a Child's Point of View," a coloring sheet on the back of this program, and glow sticks for the candle lighting. We do offer a staffed nursery for if you'd prefer to use it for part or all of the service. The easiest way to get there is to have an usher provide an escort.

Ask an usher about using a **hearing assist device**; or for a **large print Hymnal**.

### **We Come Into God's PRESENCE**

*\* Indicates to Rise in body or in spirit.*

#### **PRELUDE**

Chimes Choir

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell (*The Light of Christ enters our worship*)

#### **WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & INSERTS**

##### **\* PASSING OF CHRISTMAS PEACE**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** *Christ Candle* Mindy and Dale Williams and Family

**\* CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE** "O, Come All Ye Faithful" No. 234, vs. 1,3,6

**FROM A CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW** "The Light of Christ"  
(Children's Lesson)

Pastor Jenny

### **God Calls Us to PRAY**

(Please use the back of the bulletin insert to write your prayer joys & concerns.)

#### **PRAYER OF WORSHIP**

Let us Pray: **God of Glory, your splendor shines from the manger in Bethlehem and brings us peace. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the people around us. We pray that the Light of the world, love's pure light in Jesus Christ, will shine on all the world this night and always. Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus. Amen.**

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.*

#### **PRAYER SONG**

"The First Noel"

No. 245, vs. 1,2,4

### **We Proclaim Christ's WITNESS Through the Word**

#### **\* GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 1: 46-55

**RESPONSE:** The Inspired Word of God for the people of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

#### **MESSAGE**

"Hoping in Christmases to Come"

Pastor Jenny Seylar

## Experiencing the Generosity of God by the Giving and Receiving of GIFTS

### HOLY COMMUNION AND OFFERTORY (see projection screen)

*As you come forward to receive the gift of grace from the Lord's Table, know that you are ALL are welcome. Come forward from the outside aisles to the front. On the sides, you will find baskets into which all are invited to place offerings. A kneeling bench is available to pray before or after communion. Communion is also served in the balcony.*

First Verse of each-congregation sings (accompanied by concert band):

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"	#240
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	#230
"O Come Little Children"	(NA)
"Away in a Manger"	#217
"Joy to the World"	#246

### \* PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND DEDICATION

Let us Pray: **Almighty and Everlasting God, thank You for the birth of Your Son, Jesus, whose life brings light and love to all people. We thank You that we could come to Your Table of Grace and eat and drink of the abundance You offer. The gift of Jesus is too wonderful to ever match with our own gifts. Yet, Lord, we offer to You what we are able. Bless and multiply these gifts and guide us as we use them, that they may bless many in Your name. We pray all this and more in Christ's Holy Name. Amen.**

## We Are Sent Forth for God's SERVICE to the World

### \* SONG OF SENDING BY CANDLELIGHT "Silent Night, Holy Night" No. 239

Candles will be lit then passed down the rows. If you have the lit candle, please hold it upright and let the unlit candle tip into the lit one. Children will be given glow sticks to activate. We will sing as we pass on the light of Christ. Lights will be dimmed during this time.

### \* BLESSING & SENDING

L: Silent night, holy night- Christ Jesus is born! Give Him glory!

**P: Christ has come down from heaven! We exalt His Holy Name!**

L: Let all the earth sing praises to the Newborn King!

**P: Our hearts dance as we glorify the Lord of Life! Share Christmas joy with all!**

### POSTLUDE

"What Child is This?"

Zoe Stonebraker

(Please return candles and holders to the table as you leave. Children may keep glowsticks!)

Greg Brown - Director of Xn Chaos

Don Griffith - Custodian

Alice Ann Gallagher - Chancel Choir Director

Denise Cartwright - Choir Kids Director

Jess Goodenow-Little Friends Preschool Director

Dee Wallace - Choir Kids Accompanist

Megan Coppess-Little Friends Preschool Teacher

Jenny Seylar - Pastor

Melinda Stonebraker - Administrative Ministries Coordinator

Jesus: The Gift that Keeps On Giving—Find out more in January!  
Beginning January 8th we will be learning more about prayer.  
You are invited—Bring a friend!

**Regular Sunday Schedule (resumes Jan 8)**

7:45am Prayer

9:00am Christian Education for all ages

10:00am Snacks in Gathering Place

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

11:30am Fellowship Coffee in the Dining Room



<http://xmascoloringpages.blogspot.com/>