

First United Methodist Church

Building A Village of Faith

November 28, 2021 – 11:00 AM



2021-11-28 Worship Theme: **The Christmas Dilemma**

Today is the first Sunday of the Season of Advent, a four-week period of time preceding Christmas during which we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and anticipate his coming again in dazzling glory! But it's easy for us to read back into that story our own all-too-familiar certainties concerning the birth of Jesus because, as they say, "hindsight is 20/20." But those first characters didn't have the benefit of hindsight, so their experiences were most likely not

ones of certainty but of *dilemma*: "What am I supposed to do with **this**?" This Advent Season, we'll be given permission – and the challenge – to come up with our own responses to the dilemma that belief in the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary presents to us: "What am I supposed to do with **this**?"

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

- Matthew 1:20b-21 [NRSV]

Contemporary Worship – 9:00 AM

Traditional Worship – 11:00 AM

* It is customary to stand at these times; however, please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

Prelude Music to Set the Tone for Worship

People, Look East

Arranged by David Lasky

Words of Welcome & Greeting / Introduction of Today's Theme

Pastor Steve

* Hymn of Celebration I

"People, Look East"

UMH #202

Call to Worship – The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Family Ministry Video Clip

SUNG RESPONSE: "O Come, O Come Immanuel", vv. 1 & 2

UMH #211

* Opening Prayer – All Pray Aloud

Charlotte Boylan

God of glory and God of hope, when heavenly messengers announced a word from you to unsuspecting, ordinary men and women going about their earthly lives, those first words were often, "Do not be afraid." As we begin yet another season of Advent, that heavenly admonition seems more pertinent than ever. Give to us to know this day the **HOPE** that accompanies this Season, as we journey yet again the rough-worn path to Bethlehem from wherever we live. Like the early cast of characters in that first Christmas drama, we too are confronted with the dilemma of fearful or faithful response to your Incarnation. May we choose faith, even in the midst of our uncertainty. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

* Hymn of Celebration II

"O Come, O Come Immanuel", v. 6

UMH #211

Choral Anthem

"Arise, Shine"
Sanctuary Choir

Van Denman Thompson

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 [NRSV]

Charlotte Boylan

Message

"Joseph and the Dilemma of Doubt"

Pastor Steve

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Steve

Time for Reflection & Response

Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel"

Arranged by James Pethel

Prayer of Thanksgiving w/ The Lord's Prayer

Charlotte Boylan

Doxology	“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”, vv. 1 & 3	UMH #213
Living Our Faith	Prayer Concerns and Community-building Opportunities	Jeannie Lewis
* Going Forth in Song	“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (* Amen after last verse*)	UMH #216
* Benediction		Pastor Steve
Postlude	Excerpt from Fantasy on “Veni Emmanuel “	Arranged by Stanley Saxton

Altar Flowers

The flowers, on the altar this morning, are given by Ellie Young and family in memory of Jerry Young.

Prayers for Our People & Beyond



- For Ginny Potterveld who is at the Foresight Rehab Center recovering from illness. No visitors at the present time, but cards may be sent to Ginny's home at 2850 Dottie Lane, GJ 81506.
- For Marilyn Coe's brother-in-law & Sister, Larry & Madalynn Schmidt as Larry is experiencing heart and lung issues. They live in California.
- For Tana and Roger Foote, in the November 22nd death of Roger's father, Charles Foote.
- For Eugene Romero who is having health issues.
- **Praying for our District Churches** (1 every week) – We are praying this week for Parowan United Methodist Church in Utah, and the congregation's pastor, Rev. Jeri Lee Harrell.

To add someone to the phone prayer chain, please call Peggy Price at 242-4206

*Thank you for participating in our worship service today.
We hope you continue to be with us!*