

7:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas!

** Please stand as you are able*

Please take a moment to sign in using the gray registration book found in the pew pocket near the outside aisle.
Thank you for worshipping with us this Christmas Eve!

GATHERING MUSIC

Western Brass Quintet

***PROCESSIONAL CAROL 234** *(red hymnal)* "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*BIDDING PRAYER

***GREETING and PASSING OF THE PEACE** *(all reading the bold)*

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *(all reading the bold)*

Hope, peace, joy and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us from God, and all of them manifest in the one candle we light tonight: the Christ candle. *(The Christ Candle is lit.)* In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Come to us, Lord Jesus. Be born in us this night in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

CAROL 242 *(red hymnal)* "Love Came Down at Christmas"

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1: 1-5 (OT, p. 1)

God creates the heavens and the earth.

CHORAL ANTHEM "Creator of the Stars of Night"

anon. 9th century

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call. In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe, you came; O savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty. When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7 (OT, p. 638)

The Prophet announces the birth of a King to a people in darkness.

***CAROL 202** *(red hymnal)* "People, Look East"

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1: 26-35 (NT, p. 56)

The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son, whose kingdom shall never end.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7 (NT, p. 58)

Against the backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

CHORAL ANTHEM "Hodie Christus natus est"

Jan Petersoon Sweelinck

Hodie Christus natus est: Hodie Salvator apparuit: Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur Archangeli Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia. (Today Christ is born: Today the Savior appeared: Today on earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice: Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.)

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-12 (NT, p. 58)

An angel brings the shepherds in the fields good news of the birth of Jesus.

CHORAL ANTHEM "Run, Ye Shepherds"

Pierre Passereau

Run ye shepherds to find the Savior, the baby, the holy one. Unto you is born this day, Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign. You will find the babe in the manger lying there within. We will go there to worship and adore the babe who saves the world from sin.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 13-16 (NT, p. 58)

The shepherds search and find Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

***CAROL 238** *(red hymnal)* "Angels We Have Heard on High"

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1: 1-14 (NT, p. 91)

John explains the mystery of the incarnation.

CHORAL ANTHEM "Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes"

Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums, nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears. Not by his crown or by his gown, but his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee. Amen.

MEDITATION "The Gift"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING RECEIVED

Please take a moment to sign in using the gray registration book found in the pew pocket near the outside aisle. Thank you for worshipping with us this Christmas Eve! This year our Christmas Offering will go to help our congregation pay its Ministry Shares. Ministry Shares go to the greater United Methodist Church to help cover its many national and international missions and outreach ministries. Extra Christmas Offering envelopes can be found in the pew pockets.

OFFERTORY "Gloria in excelsis"

Antonio Vivaldi

Gloria in excelsis Deo. (Glory to God in the highest.)

***DOXOLOGY 240** *(red hymnal)* "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

SERVICE OF LIGHT *(all reading the bold)*

Jesus said, "I have come as a light into the world.

Whoever believes in me will not remain in darkness."

In Christ's name, I will light my candle. With Christ's strength, I will take it into the world.

(Light from the Christ candle will be brought to the end of each pew. Please turn and pass the light to the person next to you, tilting only the UNLIT candle to avoid dripping. Please use the drip protectors to prevent dripping or injury.)

CHORAL ANTHEM "Lullaby, Jesu"

Theron Kirk

Lullaby, Jesu, now slumber, sweet Baby. Lullaby, Jesu, Thy Mother is near Thee. Sleep, baby Jesus, no harm shall come nigh Thee. While angels hover to watch o'er Thy manger. Kings long have journeyed to kneel here before Thee. While angels hover to watch o'er Thy manger. Lullaby, Jesus, all people adore Thee.

Please continue to back

***CAROL** "Silent Night, Holy Night"
*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.*

***BLESSING**

***CAROL 246** (red hymnal) "Joy to the World"

POSTLUDE "Let the Bright Seraphim" G.F. Handel

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Worship Leaders

Revs. John Boley, Julie Kline, Shelly Wisdom-Long, and Sandy Elfring

Minister of Music

Jacqueline Stilger

Organist

Bernie Foulk

Acolytes

Lukas Bolton, Drew Strand

Western Brass Quintet

Lin Foulk (horn), Stephen Jones (trumpet), Daniel Mattson (trombone),
Deanna Swoboda (tuba), Scott Thornburg (trumpet)

Ushers

Dan Bunker (head usher), Anthony Ertz, Jim Treece, Michael Deaton

Greeters

Dave, Chris, Nick and Catie Stamper; Janet & Mike Cooper

Audio & Lighting

Greg Anderson

Welcome to First United Methodist Church!

212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
www.umc-kzo.org

If you are visiting First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo for the first time or are visiting us for the holidays, we bid you welcome! If you are seeking a church home, please consider worshiping with us again and discovering more about the journey of faith offered to all by our loving and seeking God. Our upcoming worship schedule is:

Sunday, December 25	4:00 p.m. Worship (no Sunday School) Rev. John Boley "Customs of Christmas"
Sunday, January 1	10:00 a.m. Worship (no Sunday School) Rev. Julie Kline "An Invitation to New Life" A Service of Covenant & Renewal Holy Communion Romans 12: 1-3
Sunday, January 8	8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School resumes @ 9:30 a.m. Baptism of the Lord Sunday Rev. John Boley "The Healing Waters of Baptism" Genesis 1: 1-5; Mark 1: 4-11

We are a Reconciling Congregation

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith.

Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all with

open hearts, open minds, open doors.

Please visit our website often

www.umc-kzo.org

Have a Blessed Christmas!

December 24, 2011

7:00 p.m.

the Savior is born!

First United Methodist
Church
of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269.381.6340
www.umc-kzo.org

