



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*a Stephen Ministry Congregation*

**DECEMBER 20, 2020  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
EIGHT FORTY-FIVE AND ELEVEN O'CLOCK**

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.*

**Dr. Jay D. Cooper**  
Senior Minister

**Reverend Lucas S. Tribble**  
Associate Minister

**Reverend Gillian L. Walters**  
Associate Minister

**Reverend Ben A. McDavid**  
Associate Minister

**Dr. C. Jason Borders**  
Theologian in Residence

**Dr. James H. Seay**  
Director of Music

**Dr. Karl K. Stegall**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Bishop David W. Graves**  
Bishop Alabama-West Florida  
Conference

**Dr. Joshua H. Coble**  
Organist/Assistant Director of Music

**Dr. Jeff L. Wilson**  
District Superintendent  
Montgomery-Opelika and  
Montgomery-Prattville Districts

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
2416 West Clovedale Park | Montgomery, Alabama 36106

# MORNING WORSHIP

## LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

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Prelude

GREENSLEEVES

R. Vaughn Williams

Welcome and Parish Notices

Dr. Jay D. Cooper

Chiming of the Trinity

*The three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*

Introit

*His Name Shall Be Called Emmanuel*

arr. Karle Erickson

\*Processional Hymn

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

220

*1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight  
o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship,  
come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your  
flocks by night, God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship,  
come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter  
visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: Come and worship, come  
and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in  
hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in his  
temple shall appear: Come and worship, come and  
worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*

\*Call to Worship

Rev. Ben A. McDavid

Leader: May your souls magnify the Lord,

**People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things for us,

**People: And holy is God's name!**

\*Invocation

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray together.

**All: Ever faithful God, through prophets and angels, you promised to raise up a holy child who would be the Prince of Peace. Open our hearts to receive your Son, that we may forever be amazed by birth and resurrection. Amen.**

\*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

881

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(8:45) **The Moore Family**  
Joe Seawell, Amanda, Emma, and Elizabeth

(11:00) **The Davidson Family**  
Steve, Suzanne, Lela, and Wyatt

Response

*Angels We Have Heard on High  
Gloria, in excelsis deo! Gloria, in excelsis deo!*

Refrain

Concerns of a Caring Fellowship

Rev. Gillian L. Walters

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Gillian L. Walters

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.

**Offertory**

*Peace Came to Earth*  
Cathedral Choir

arr. K. Lee Scott

*Peace came to earth at last that chosen night when angels clove the sky with song and light and God embodied love and sheathed his might. Who could but gasp: Immanuel! And who could be the same for having held the infant in their arms, and later felt the wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled. Who could but sigh: Immanuel! You show the Father none has ever seen, in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you visit us again. Who could but see Immanuel! How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could I have loved you, O my God! How else could I embrace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Immanuel!*

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

VENI EMMANUEL

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Children's Minute**

Rev. Lucas S. Tribble

*Children ages three through first grade will be escorted to Children's Church. Visitors are welcome to accompany their children. Children can be picked up at the close of worship in Room 114 of the Children's Building.*

**United Methodist Children's Home Speaker**

Dr. Blake Horne

**\*Scripture Lesson**

Luke 1:26-38

**Sermon**

*Down to Earth: Amazing Us*

Dr. Jay D. Cooper

**Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

*Those desiring to unite with the church, either by profession of faith or by transfer of membership, are invited to contact Rev. Lucas Tribble, ltribble@fumcmontgomery.org.*

**\*Hymn of Invitation**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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*1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go  
by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee  
tonight.*

*2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of  
wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim  
the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth!*

*3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his  
heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world  
of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear  
Christ enters in.*

*4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We  
hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O  
come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

**\*Benediction**

Dr. C. Jason Borders

**\*Benediction Response**

*Be Near Me Lord Jesus*

arr. Lester Seigel

**Postlude**

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

Keith Chapman

*The chancel arrangement is given to the glory of God by the Worship Committee and the Flower Guild for the month of December.*

*The wreath on the columbarium is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joe F. Lassiter III by Clare and Bill Ward, Christine Lassiter, Emily Lassiter (Mary Jane and Camille), and Nancy and David Belser.*

*A nursery is provided during this service of worship for your convenience. The nursery can be found in Wesley Hall, accessed through the double doors on the pulpit side.*

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### **LITURGICAL SEASON: ADVENT**

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming” or “visit,” begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians. The liturgical color during Advent is purple.

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#### **IN MEMORY OF**

##### **Larry Dean Dixon**

Respite Ministry: *Ira Brounstein, Mr. and Mrs. Fred S. Ball, Dr. Mike Bridger, Paul M. Smith, Mrs. Patsy Hatcher, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy McClinton, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Blitz, Mr. and Mrs. Seaborn Kennamer, Mr. Marks Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Norman, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lee*; Memorial Fund: *Mr. and Mrs. Woody Lamar, Dr. E. Ann Mountcastle, Mr. H. Ben Coker, III, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Litchfield, Mr. and Mrs. Adams Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Parker, Betty Richardson*

##### **Thomas Winfred Oliver, V**

Memorial Fund: *Mr. and Mrs. Woody Thrasher, Martha Manstrath, Lauren White, Bradley Sosebee, Leslie Fritsch, Tyler Watson, Patricia Alias, Alice Rolan*

##### **Rutherford M. “Rud” Poats**

Music Ministry: *The Journey Sunday School class, Dr. and Mrs. Glen Bannister*

##### **Lewis Jeffery Stabler**

Memorial Fund: *Sue Loftis*

##### **Atwood Bullock Rush, Sr.**

Memorial Fund: *Mr. and Mrs. Oakley Melton*

##### **Martha Edd Adair**

Memorial Fund: *Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Kohn*

#### **IN HONOR OF**

##### **Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cook**

Grounds Committee: *Mrs. Josephine Foshee*

##### **Alice Atkins**

Respite Ministry: *Kathy Manning and Harry Truslow*

##### **Skip Adair**

Respite Ministry: *Kathy Manning and Harry Truslow*

##### **Mr. and Mrs. Chad Morris**

Respite Ministry: *Kathy Manning and Harry Truslow*

##### **Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Holcomb**

Honor Gift: *Mr. and Mrs. Frank Litchfield*

##### **Mrs. Carolyn Bowman**

Respite Ministry: *Mrs. Josephine Foshee*

##### **Laura Selby and Daphne Johnston**

Respite Ministry: *Mrs. Josephine Foshee*

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### **AROUND THE CONGREGATION**

#### **WEDDING**

**Christine Levi and William Bloom**  
*December 12, 2020*

#### **BIRTH**

**Mary Alice DuBose**  
*December 10, 2020*  
Daughter of Derek and Luv DuBose

#### **SYMPATHY**

To Rhonda and Mike Bentley and their family upon the death of Rhonda's mother, *Betty Lackey Milam*