

**Prayer of the People/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.

**Communion** (Hymnal p.13)

**SENDING FORTH**

*The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.*

**Closing Hymn 216\*\***—*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**Benediction** (Hymn #204)—*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.**

**Postlude**—*Toccata in A Minor*—Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

**The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given**

in loving memory of Steven Carlson, by Jeanette Carlson

**Music**—One License A-731491

*\*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**Clergy & Staff**

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Marie Willis-Guarneri, Director of Music & Worship

Eric Charnofsky, Organist & Accompanist

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

**Contact Information**

245 Portage Trail

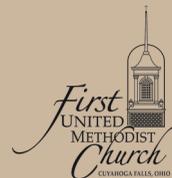
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# The First CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS



"Ave Maria"

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CUYAHOGA FALLS  
10:45AM WORSHIP**

## The Second Sunday Of Advent

**10:45 am**

**December 7, 2025**

### GATHERING

*The people of God come together in the Lord's name.*

#### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude**—*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*—arr. Sally DeFord

**Introit**—*Glory to God*

Combined Choirs

#### **Call to Worship**—

Get ready, people of God! The time of hope and peace is at hand.

**We are called to action rather than reaction.**

Come, draw near to God in faith.

**Let us prepare our hearts to receive the wondrous gifts of God. AMEN.**

**Opening Hymn 202\*\***—*People, Look East*

**Invocation** (please be seated)—

**Visionary God, in this season of preparation and reflection, let us see, as through your eyes, the way the world can be. Hope, peace, joy, and love are more than just nice things that could be. Make us bearers of your promise to the world, that all may know the power of your holy love. Amen.**

### PROCLAMATION

*The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.*

**Scripture Reading**—Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

**Gloria Patri** — *Glory Be to the Father* (Hymnal p. 70)

**Advent Candle Litany**

Barker Family

**Hymn 206**—*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

**All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.**

Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

**Anthem**—*The First Noel*—arr. Forrest

Chancel Choir

**God's Word for Young Disciples**—(congregation sings—*Jesus Loves Me*—as the children come forward)

**Scripture Reading**—Luke 1:26-28, 39-42

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**—“*The First Carols of Christmas: Ave Maria*”

Pastor Howard Pippin

### RESPONSE

*The People of God respond to the Word.*

**Hymn of Response 215\*\***—*To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

**Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory**—*Were You There on That Christmas Nigh?*—arr. Sleeth

Epworth Choir

**Doxology\*\***

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

—continued

## OPENING HYMN

*Hymn #202, People, Look East*

1. People, look east.  
The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad.  
Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength  
the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
3. Stars, keep the watch.  
When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.
4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## 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, amen.

## ADVENT CANDLE SONG

*Hymn #206, I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

I want to walk as a child of the light  
I want to follow Jesus  
God sent the stars to give light to the world  
The star of my life is Jesus

In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I want to see the brightness of God  
I want to look at Jesus  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path  
And show me the way to the Father

In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I'm looking for the coming of Christ  
I want to be with Jesus  
When we have run with patience the race  
We shall know the joy of Jesus

In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Hymn #215, To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

1. To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.  
“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news, good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.”
2. “For you are highly favored by God the lord of all, who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest, you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are best!”
3. But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel’s word. What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear, to hear the angel’s message, it troubled her to hear.
4. “Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child. His name shall be called Jesus, God’s offspring from on high. And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high.”
5. “How shall this be? Said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.” The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High will come upon you shortly, your child will be God’s child.”
6. As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at this words. “Behold, I am your hand-maid,” she said unto her God. “So be it; I am ready according to your word.”

## CLOSING HYMN

*Hymn #216, Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming*

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
as those of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the Rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man yet very God,  
from sin and death now save us,  
and share our every load.

## BENEDICTION #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmanuel.

“The First Carols of Christmas: Ave Maria” - Luke 1:26–28, 39–42

### The Carol of Grace

(Luke 1:26–28) “Rejoice, highly favored one! The Lord is with you.”

### The Carol of Joy

(Luke 1:39–41) “The baby leaped in her womb.”

### The Carol of Blessing

(Luke 1:42) “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Child you will bear!”

### Questions:

Will you sing the carol? Do you feel the presence of the Lord in you? How does knowing joy come from God change how you feel about the joy in your life?

### Memory Verse:

Luke 1:28 - “And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you”



**Please Read!  
Urgent  
Safety Issue**

**We ask everyone to please be mindful about NOT placing items against the heaters/registers in the church building. Please leave space.**

**We had a close call with an upholstered chair.**

**Thank you!**



## Hats & Gloves Collection

**We are in need of winter hats and gloves for our outdoor clothesline. They can be dropped off at the church during office hours 9-3p or Sunday mornings (near the church library)**



## PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR:

*In our community:*

We pray for local business owners & employees.

*In our Greater world:*

We pray for peace.

*Our sympathy & Prayers:*

the family of member, Jim Bailey, who passed away on Nov. 7.

*From our Congregation:*

Scott Adie  
Bob Ahonen  
Joanne Ames  
Debbie Amundsen  
Rick Amundsen  
Paul Averill  
Dorothy Bates  
Suzanne Callahan  
Melanie Chaney  
Ron Dickerhoof Jr.  
Mary Griest  
Kim Haftl  
Tom Jackson

Dwight Konic  
Vince Meeker  
Raquel Mehalik  
Becky Pecko  
Barb Pells  
Robbie Robinson  
Holly Ross  
Kathi Sawyer  
Fritz Sterling  
Judy Ulrey  
Mike Yeager  
Peg Yeager  
Rose Ann Youngkin

**CHURCH NOTES 12-7-25**

**Backpacks for Preston:** We are collecting items for the Winter Break Preston Backpack distribution. The board is up in the Breezeway. If you're able, choose a slip, purchase the items, and bring them back by next Sunday. ALL are invited to help us pack on **December 15 @6:30pm**. Thank you!

**Nut Sale:** The Annual Nut Sale is back to benefit *Work Camp*. Nuts will be available for purchase or pick-up (fill out the pre-order form) on Sunday mornings, or during office hours M-F, 9-3pm

**Open M Collections:** We are collecting monetary donations toward the purchase of 200 turkeys for *the Open M* holiday distribution. Monetary donations can also be made to support their *For the Love of Children* gift campaign. You may place your check marked "Turkeys" or "Open M Gift" in the offering plate, the drop box, or mail to the church by **TOMORROW**.

**Let the Light Shine for He Is Born:** Our children's, Epworth, Chancel choir, and bell choirs, along with our organist Eric Charnofsky, and all under the direction of Marie Willis-Guarneri, will present a concert next **Sunday, December 14 @7:00pm**. We hope you'll join us!

**Baptism:** Our next baptism date will be Dec. 14. If you or a family member are interested in baptism please contact Kim Kerr at 330-923-5241 X215.

**St. Nicholas Brunch:** St. Nicholas brunch is coming up on **Sunday, Dec. 14**. There will be no Sunday School that day. Tickets are \$7 adult, \$5 children 3-11 (under 3 free). Bring a hat or mittens to donate to our outdoor clothesline.



Join us for our free Christmas Concert

*Let the Light Shine*  
**FOR HE IS BORN**

Sunday, December 14, 2025 @6:00pm  
First United Methodist Church in Cuyahoga Falls

Featuring our organist, Eric Charnofsky, along with our bell, adult, youth, & children's choirs, under the direction of Marie Willis-Guarneri.



*The First*  
**CAROLS  
OF CHRISTMAS**

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship!

6:00pm-Family-friendly Worship  
8:00pm-Traditional

Featuring our teen and adult choirs