

A TIME OF PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer *Star-Child* TFWS #2095
 Prayer/Lord's Prayer
 Choral Response *Star-Child* TFWS #2095

CHORAL ANTHEM *Christmas is Coming* Joel Ramey

SCRIPTURE Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 3:1-6

HYMN *(remain seated)* *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (verses 1,2 & 4) No. 218

SERMON A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS: Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
 Faith Prepares

OFFERING

Call to Stewardship and Mission
 Offertory *Angels from the Realms of Glory* Henry Smart
 Doxology/Prayer of Dedication

*Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,
 whose Daystar shines for us on high,
 whose Spirit brings into our sight
 the hope to which our world draws nigh.*

*CLOSING HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* No. 213

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* No. 224

*Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice.
 Now ye hear of endless bliss, News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this.
 He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.
 Christ was born for this, chrst was born for this!*

POSTLUDE *Let All Things Now Living* Ash Grove

**Please stand as able.*

Music Director: Julia Burns Piano/Keyboard: Dennis Eiler Organ: Brad Bettencourt

Today's Scripture

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Today's Liturgist: Michelle Richardson



WEEK	ATTENDANCE				GIVING	
	8:30	10:30	IN-PERSON	VIDEO	TOTAL	
11/10	37	49	86	16	102	\$ 4,579
11/17	59	78	137	38	175	\$ 2,214
11/24	37	48	85	21	106	\$ 2,040
12/01	30	50	80	15	95	\$ 9,553
Our Fiscal Year started July 1 Weekly Offering Needed \$6,321 STEWARDSHIP REPORT: YTD Received \$132,543 YTD Budgeted \$137,082 Thanksgiving Received \$2,902 Thanksgiving Budgeted \$3,500						

HOSPITALITY TIME
Today's Hosts:
ENDOWMENT/
ELT
Next Sunday
Dec. 15
TRUSTEES



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



Mon	Dec 09	9:45 AM FUMCC Rehearsal- S, 6PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH.
Tue	Dec 10	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH, 9:45 AM FUMCC Rehearsal- S, 10:00 AM Sew & Sews-MMR, 11:00 AM Chair Yoga- CH, 1:00 PM Bible Study-CH, 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-Handbell Room.
Wed	Dec 11	9 AM Church Work Morning-CH, 9:45 AM FUMCC Rehearsal- S, 10:00 AM UWF Steering, Library, 1:30 PM Mission Team-MMR.
Thu	Dec 12	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH, 9:45 AM FUMCC Rehearsal- S, 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH, 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal HR, 6:00 PM Children's Center Christmas Program-S, 6:30 PM Chancel Choir-S.
Sun	Dec 15	8:30 AM Contemporary Service-Sanctuary, 10:30 AM Traditional Service-Sanctuary

Abbreviaton
Legend

CH--Criswell Hall
S--Sanctuary
K--Kitchen
L--Library---
Room #123
MMR--McMillen
Room #113
PS--Pastor's Study
HR--Handbell
Room #115




The ANGEL TREE is set up in Criswell Hall! The gifts are due no later than 12/18/24 by noon. They can be brought to the tree or to the church office with prior notice.

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 PM Christmas Eve



Join us to sing carols, hear the original Christmas story and worship by candlelight. Let us come together on this special night to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

AGUM CHILDREN'S CENTER CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, Thursday, Dec. 12, 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary, followed by a social in Criswell Hall.

Don't miss this festive performance by the children!




For information on flower dedications and ordering altar flowers, please contact the church office.



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
275 N. Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



December 08, 2024

10:30 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

---Matthew 3:3b

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Roland H. Prichard/arr. Mark Hays

INTROIT *Sing We Now of Christmas (verse 1)* No. 237

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear'
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Prepare the way of the Lord
God's kingdom has drawn near.
Prepare the way of peace.
Salvation is at hand.
Prepare the way of the Lord.
We come to worship, pray and praise.

*OPENING HYMN *People, Look East* No. 202

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,
We thank you for your presence with us always.
As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus,
we pray for the coming of your justice on earth.
May we be faithful in following our Lord in this moment
and in the days ahead.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Carolyn Russell

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE The Candle of Faith
(congregation sings "Away in the Manger" as children come forward)