

HANDBELL ANTHEM *Soliloquy on "Silent Night"* arr. Leonard G. Lutz

A TIME OF PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (verse 1)* No. 229  
Prayer/Lord's Prayer  
Choral Response *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (verse 1)* No. 229

CHORAL ANTHEM *Comfort and Joy* Joel RaNey

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 12:2-6  
Luke 1:39-56

HYMN *(remain seated)* *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* No. 216

SERMON A SONG IN THE SOUL: Rev. Mary Birgelaitis  
Joy Receives

OFFERING

Call to Stewardship and Mission  
Offertory *The Holly and the Ivy* Traditional/arr. Cindy Berry  
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 *Angels We Have Heard on High* No. 238

\*BENEDICTION

And now, may the peace of God, that passes all understanding,  
**be with you now and forevermore.**  
Rejoice in God always!  
**Again, we say, rejoice!**

CHORAL RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain)* No. 238  
*Gloria, in excelsis deo. Gloria, in excelsis deo!*

POSTLUDE *What Child is This?* Trad. English melody/arr. Dan Coates

*\*Please stand as able.*

*Music Director: Julia Burns Piano/Keyboard: Dennis Eiler*

Today's Scripture

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.  
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.  
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.  
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the

sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

*Today's Liturgist: Joyce Singelman*

WEEK	ATTENDANCE				GIVING	
	8:30	10:30	IN-PERSON	VIDEO	TOTAL	
11/17	59	78	137	40	177	\$ 2,214
11/24	37	48	85	26	111	\$ 2,040
12/01	30	50	80	24	104	\$ 9,553
12/08	34	44	78	4	80	n/a

**Our Fiscal Year started July 1 Weekly Offering Needed \$6,321**  
STEWARDSHIP REPORT: n/a

**HOSPITALITY TIME**

**Today's Hosts:  
TRUSTEES**

**Next Sunday  
Dec. 22**

**MISSION TEAM**



# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR





<b>Mon</b>	<b>Dec 16</b>	6PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>Dec 17</b>	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH, 10:00 AM Sew & Sews-MMR, 11:00 AM Chair Yoga- CH, 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-Handbell Room.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Dec 18</b>	9 AM Church Work Morning-CH
<b>Thu</b>	<b>Dec 19</b>	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH, 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH, 4:00 PM Children's Center Board-MMR, 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR, 6:00 PM Chancel Choir-Sanctuary.
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Dec 20</b>	10:30 AM UWF Book Club-Library.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Dec 22</b>	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.

**Monday, December 30**  
 People's Kitchen Food Prep-K

**Tuesday, December 31**  
 Food Distribution at People's Kitchen Site

**Saturday, January 25, 11 AM** Fellowship Ministry visit to the elephant seals in Cambria. Depart at 10 AM to carpool from the church. Sign up in the Narthex.



**Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve**



**7:00 PM**  
 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.



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



**First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande**  
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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

10:30 AM

*"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"*  
 ---Luke 1:46b-47

PRELUDE	<i>Bethlehem Morning</i>	Morris Chapman/arr. Melody Bober
INTROIT	<i>How Great Our Joy</i>	John Rutter
HANDBELL INTROIT	<i>Appalachian Christmas</i>	arr. Douglas E. Wagner

### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing for joy.  
**We rejoice in Christ's love.**  
 Pray with hope.  
**Our hope rests in God alone.**  
 Journey with trust.  
**God's Spirit is guiding our way.**

\*OPENING HYMN *There's a Song in the Air* verses 1-3 No. 249

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**Come, Lord Jesus.**  
**Come into our lives and renew us.**  
**Where there is hatred, heal us with love.**  
**Where there is discord, calm us with peace.**  
**Where there is sin, cover us with grace.**  
**Where there is despair, strengthen our hope.**  
**In your blessed name we pray. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Carolyn Russell

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE The Candle of Joy  
*(congregation sings "Away in the Manger" as children come forward)*