

# Faith United Methodist Church

God's People Gather to Worship at 9:00 am

† CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)

Rejoice, give thanks; call on God's name; the Holy One is in our midst.

**How good it is to come home to God's house! How good it is to gather in Christ's presence!**

Sing aloud! Exalt with all your heart; the Sovereign One has done glorious things.

**We offer up our anxieties, seeking God's peace. We face our plenty, eager to share.**

Shout your praise! Express your joy! The God of our salvation welcomes us.

**God's love is renewing us in these moments; God's strength is becoming our song!**

† OPENING HYMN 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 887

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to you. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has taken away the judgments against us. The evil we have feared cannot triumph. The enemies we have harbored in our own souls will no longer oppress us. Disasters we have experienced are not the last word. God restores us to the family, welcomes us with open arms, and strengthens us for each day's challenges. Praise God, give thanks, and let the world know of God's marvelous deeds.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

† NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-24

Page 681, pew Bible

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Zechariah 2:10-11

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Page 95, UMH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

† HYMN OF CELEBRATION 238

Angels We Have Heard on High

PRAYER

† SENDING

Because God first loved us, we are called to love others. May we first be able to love ourselves and believe that we are worthy of love. Amen.

† HYMN 666

Shalom to You

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

God's People Gather to Worship at 11:00 am

† GREETINGS

† OPENING SONGS OF PRAISE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

† NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-24

Page 681, pew Bible

CHRISTMAS CANTATA


PRAYER

† OFFERING/SONGS OF PRAISE

† SENDING FORTH

*You are invited to the communion rail during this time for prayers of healing, intercession for others, strength and comfort, confession, salvation, or any other need. The Pastor and prayer team will meet you there.*

† Please stand if you are able.



In the name  
of Jesus Christ  
**Welcome**

Good morning and welcome to Faith United Methodist Church. Our hope is that you will feel God's presence through friendly faces, meaningful worship, and opportunities to serve God's people. We are blessed by your presence and our doors are always open to you. *Please complete a visitor card found in the back of the pew in front of you and give it to an usher.* We have a gift for you that we feel will have an impact on your life! We hope you feel at home and invite you to worship with us again.