

Prepare the Way



Second Sunday of Advent *December 7, 2025*

Prelude

"Lord Christ, the only Son of God", BWV 601

Bach

Greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is **bold**.*

Centering Words:

Lay aside all pretense and selfish ambition that cut you off from God and the people around you.
Let harmony prevail and peace abound.

Call to worship:

In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.
We come to be inspired by stories of a messiah who will change the world and change us.
We come to listen for words of hope and joy, promise and challenge.
We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts. We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of waiting.
Come! Let us worship our God, the One who brings all things to fulfillment.

*Opening Hymn

I Come with Joy

♫ UMH # 617

1.

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free, in awe and wonder to recall,
his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.**

2.

**I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.**

3.

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.**

4.

**And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known;
we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.**

5.

**Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways, and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 617

Words: Brian A. Wren, 1968

Music: DOVE OF PEACE; *The Southern Harmony*, 1835;

harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987

Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.;

harm. © The United Methodist Publishing House

Used by permission CCLI 673591

Advent Candle Lighting # 2

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)

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

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.

Advent hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

♫ UMH # 211 v. 2

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 211

Words: 9th century Latin; trans. Sloane Coffin. 1916

Music: 15th century French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of assurance

Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 11:1-10**

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

Epistle Reading: **Romans 15:4-13**

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

Anthem

Silent Night

Klusmeier

*Gospel Reading: **Matthew 3:1-12**

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Preparation

Seek Ye First

^ UMH # 405

1.

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

2.

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 577

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; Music: CWM RHONDDA; John Hughes, 1907; Words by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Used by permission CCLI 673591

Message

"Prepare the Way"

Hymn of Response

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

^ UMH # 203

1.

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

2.

**He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.**

3.

**He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.**

4.

**To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 203

Words: James Montgomery, 1821; Music: ELLACOME; *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt; adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

Invitation to the Offering

Please submit your offering as you feel led by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: www.elyriafirstumc.org.

Offertory

"O hail this brightest day of days", BuxWV 182

Buxtehude

*Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
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.**

[♩] UMH # 95

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 95
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: OLD 100TH; Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

*Offertory Prayer:

We thank you, Holy One, for all your good gifts, especially the gifts of prophecy, promise, and calls for preparation. As a thankful response to these gifts, we offer our belief, our commitments, and our money, that we may hasten the time when no one will hurt or destroy on all God's holy mountain. Amen.

Sharing in Holy Communion

Announcements

*Closing Hymn

Heralds of Christ

[♩] UMH # 567

1.

**Heralds of Christ, who bear the King's commands,
immortal tidings in your mortal hands, pass on and carry swift
the news you bring; make straight, make straight the highway of the King.**

2.

**Through desert ways, dark fen, and deep morass,
through jungles, sluggish seas, and mountain pass, build now the road,
and falter not, nor stay; prepare across the earth the King's highway.**

3.

**Lord, give us faith and strength the road to build,
to see the promise of the day fulfilled, when war shall be no more,
and strife shall cease upon the highway of the Prince of Peace.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 567
Words: Laura S. Copenhaver, 1915; Music: NATIONAL HYMN; George W. Warren, 1894

Benediction

Postlude

"The Son of God has come", BWV 600

Bach

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

[♩] UMH ~ United Methodist Hymnal (hard cover hymnal)

[♩] FWS ~ The Faith We Sing (soft cover hymnal)

Worship Participants

Preaching: Pastor Marcus Atha

Liturgist: Bailey Borer

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

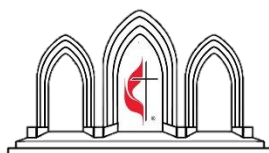
Sound room: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: Mike Gebhardt, Garry Gibbs, Bruce Schneider, and Mike Zahnke

This service is broadcast live on the radio station WOBL 1320 AM and 107.7 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money given for our radio ministry. Thank you to those who donate which allows us to continue our radio ministry as we share God's love with the radio audience and the community.

The altar flowers are sponsored by Allen Grobe in loving memory and in celebration of Anita Edward's December 19th earthly birthday.

If you are interested in joining our church family, or if you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office at 440.322.6622.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

An equal opportunity provider

"Lord Christ, the only Son of God", BWV 601 by J.S. Bach. ***Silent Night*** by Ron Klusmeier, Copyright © 2001 Canadian International Music. ***"O hail this brightest day of days", BuxWV 182*** by Dietrich Buxtehude. ***"The Son of God has come", BWV 600*** by J.S. Bach. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

Third Street Review



December Mission focus:

December 7, 2025

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

Adopt-an-Angel

Join us in adopting a local child to have a wonderful Christmas! Our staff has chosen a few local families who frequent our Free Clothing and Hygiene Store to show God's love this season and beyond. These families are working hard day after day to make their way in life but still struggle to get by week to week.

On the altar rail garland, you will find some paper angels with wishes on them. Please pick one, *or two*, then return the **wrapped gifts with the angel tag** by **Sunday, December 21st**. Let's spread God's love and give these families a very special Christmas!

**Life is divided into three terms -
that which was, which is, and which will be.**

**Let us learn from the past
to profit by the present,
and from the present,
to live better in the future.**

~ William Wordsworth

Christmas Eve

Join us for worship!

4 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Invite your family and friends for this special service.

312 Happy Hour

Happy Hour is a twice per month event held on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** at **noon** in **Fellowship Hall!** Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship on

December 9th and no Happy Hour on the 23rd

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates:

January 4, 18, and 25

Radio dates:

December 14 and 21;

January 4, 11, 18, and 25

Cost \$300 (includes advertising!)

Please call the church office at 440.322.6622 to reserve your special date!

Share Your Gifts/Talents

YOU have gifts and talents to share. The Community Breakfast and our Free stores need you!

***Volunteering once a month can make a
big difference in the life of our ministries,
the community, and YOU!***

Please contact the church office to cheerfully offer your gifts and talents to serve in these vital ministries.

Community Breakfast

Thank you to those who have joined a breakfast team! There are a few spots still available.

Prayerfully consider joining a breakfast team then call Julie Joy in the church office (440.322.6622) to volunteer.

***There is nothing like a dream
to create the future.***

~ Victor Hugo

Free Clothing Store

We continue to organize what has been received.

The store will be open to the community on **Saturday, December 27th 10 am-12 pm**, please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer.

Free Hygiene Store

We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Being open to the community and filling in the gap for many families is a blessing!

Our needs for November include:

- **Baby wash and lotion**
- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Women's and men's Body wash,
Deodorant, and Razors**

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. The store will be open on **Saturday, December 27th from 10 am-12 pm!**

***The past, the present and the future
are really one: they are today.***

~Harriet Beecher Stowe

Year End Contributions

End of year contributions/pledges must be received in the office by 12/31/25 in order to post to the current year. Anything received after 12/31/25 will be posted to the new year. If mailing in your contribution/pledge, please do allow extra time. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Tucker in the church office.

All-Church Meeting

Thank you to all who participated in the All-Church meeting last Sunday. The leadership team will provide updates soon.

***"Joy is the infallible sign
of the presence of God."***

~Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

2025 Year-End Statements

If you would like to receive your year-end statement electronically instead of in the mail, please contact Heather in the church office. Or you can indicate your desire on today's Connection Card! Please be sure to include your email address.

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettia orders are due next Sunday, December 14th. Please remember to submit a separate check with your poinsettia order. Thank you!

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, December 7: **Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12**

Monday, December 8: **Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

Tuesday, December 9: **Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21**

Wednesday, December 10: **Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37**

Thursday, December 11: **Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10**

Friday, December 12: **Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18**

Saturday, December 13: **Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18**

Sunday, December 14: **Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11**

2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



This year we will have red medium-sized pots.
Please bring or send this form to the Church with payment.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: Sunday, December 14th

Checks should be made payable to: First United Methodist Church (designate "Poinsettia")

ORDERED

\$ ENCLOSED

_____ x \$13

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE # _____

In Memory ~ Honor ~ Appreciation of: (please circle one)

Poinsettias can be picked up after the 4PM Christmas Eve service
or on Sunday, December 28th after the 11AM worship service.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 Phone: 440.322.6622

11-25