

The Prince of Peace in a War Filled World



First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Prelude

Greetings

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

arr. Berry

Prayer of Praise and Adoration:

We will indeed praise you, O God, and cause your works to be known. Your mercy and grace shall endure forever. As we obey your commandments and abide by your wisdom, we shall proclaim to the nations how you can be trusted. Upheld by the covenant you established, our feet firmly placed on an unshakable foundation, we enter your presence to give you all glory.

Call to worship: Taken from Isaiah 63

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of God most high.

Because of all that the Lord has done for us, according to the abundance of God's love.

It was your presence that saved the house of Israel, your love and pity redeemed them.

We join with them as your people, O God, your children who sing you our praises.

ALL: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

[♯] UMH # 234

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem

O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light eternal,

lo, he shuns the Virgin's womb;

Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Refrain

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,

Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

We to will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,

we would embrace thee with love and awe.

Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,

Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 234

Words: John F. Wade, ca. 1734; trans. By Frederick Oakely, 1841

Music: John F. Wade, ca. 1734; harm. From Collection of Motets or Antiphons, 1792

Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 63:7-9**

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

Epistle Reading: **Hebrews 2:10-18**

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

Special Music

Soul on Fire

Third Day

Duet: Sheila André de la Porte and Randy Long

*Gospel Reading: **Matthew 2:13-23**

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

Message

The Prince of Peace in a War Filled World

Hymn of Response

Away in a Manger

UMH # 217

1.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

2.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

3.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 217

Words: Anon.

Music: James E. Murray, 1887

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of compassion, have mercy upon us as we make our confession. The year is soon spent. What we ought to have done still awaits action, while we commit acts not in accord with your will. We think of ourselves before others; we serve our own needs. We keep for ourselves the gifts of your graciousness. The new life you offer is not yet proclaimed in the land. Forgive us our sins and make us more faithful. Help us to use our time wisely as we follow Christ's way.

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear Paul's words of assurance: "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. . . . The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." In Christ we are forgiven.

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

Silent Night

arr. Hayes

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

♪ UMH # 95

**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.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 95

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: OLD 100TH; Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

*Offertory Prayer:

Great Shepherd of the sheep, you feast our soul with abundance and satisfy your people with goodness. We dine on your mercy and are filled by your grace. Having received your gift of Christ our Redeemer, we no longer languish in barrenness but are full of new life. Accept these gifts that we bring you in response to the love you have shown us in Christ. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

♪ UMH # 246

1.

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

2.

**Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns; Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

3.

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

4.

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 246

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: ANTIOCH; Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741,
by Lowell Mason, 1848

Benediction

Postlude

Carol Medley

arr. Hayes

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

♪ UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

♪ FWS ~ *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)

Worship Participants

Preaching: Rev. Kurt D. Walker

Liturgist: Kim Foster

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Nathan Hensley, Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

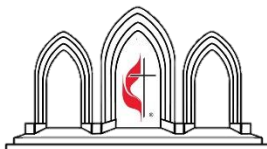
Sound room: Bob Rice

Ushers and Greeters: John Borer, Kris Long, 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 by Dolores Morgan in honor of her niece in California who celebrated her 41st birthday on December 26th.

The altar flowers are sponsored by Sheila André de la Porte in honor of all families in our lives, daily prayers, in loving appreciation of the journeys we take with them through God's graces.

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful arranged by Cindy Berry. ***Soul on Fire*** by Third Day written by Samuel Tai Anderson, Brenton Brown, David Carr, Mark Lee, Matt Maher & Mac Powell. ***Silent Night*** arranged by Mark Hayes. ***Carol Medley*** arranged by Mark Hayes. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

Third Street Review



December 28, 2025

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

New Church Plan

Beginning **January 4th**, we will worship together in the **chapel**. We need to stay together and be strong throughout this change. Our church family will continue to be nurtured and supported throughout this period.

***Pray for our community and ask God
to lead us to people who are thirsting
for Christ's love and grace.***

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.

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.

December Mission focus:

Adopt-an-Angel

Your gifts of love have been received by the children of God and they truly had a blessed and wonderful Christmas!

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
January 13th and 27th

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates:

January 4, 18, and 25

Radio dates:

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 in the new year***, then call Julie Joy in the church office (440.322.6622) to volunteer!

Free Clothing Store

Thank you Volunteers!

The clothing store is well organized and tidy thanks to some dedicated volunteers. The store will be open to the community on **Saturday, January 24th 10 am-12 pm**. Please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer for this wonderful ministry.

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, January 24th from 10 am-12 pm!**

***To be hopeful means
to be uncertain about the future,
to be tender toward possibilities,
to be dedicated to change
all the way down
to the bottom of your heart.***

~ Rebecca Solnit

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, December 28: **Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18;**

Matthew 2:13-23

Monday, December 29: **Psalm 20; Jeremiah 31:15-22; Luke 19:41-44**

Tuesday, December 30: **Psalm 20; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

Wednesday, December 31: **Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19**

Thursday, January 1: **Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a;**

Matthew 25:31-46

Friday, January 2: **Psalm 20; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12**

Saturday, January 3: **Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22**

Sunday, January 4: **Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14;**

John 1:1-18



January 2026 Daily Readings

Thursday, January 1: **Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46**

Friday, January 2: **Psalm 20; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12**

Saturday, January 3: **Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22**

Sunday, January 4: **Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18**

Monday, January 5: **Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2**

Tuesday, January 6: **Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12**

Wednesday, January 7: **Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21**

Thursday, January 8: **Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9**

Friday, January 9: **Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a**

Saturday, January 10: **Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31**

Sunday, January 11: **Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17**

Monday, January 12: **Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48**

Tuesday, January 13: **Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13**

Wednesday, January 14: **Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21**

Thursday, January 15: **Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12**

Friday, January 16: **Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5**

Saturday, January 17: **Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11**

Sunday, January 18: **Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42**

Monday, January 19: **Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40**

Tuesday, January 20: **Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4**

Wednesday, January 21: **Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17**

Thursday, January 22: **Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24**

Friday, January 23: **Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10**

Saturday, January 24: **Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32**

Sunday, January 25: **Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23**

Monday, January 26: **Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14**

Tuesday, January 27: **Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18**

Wednesday, January 28: **Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79**

Thursday, January 29: **Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12**

Friday, January 30: **Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24**

Saturday, January 31: **Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35**

The readings can also be found on the church's website:

<https://www.elyriafirstumc.org/january-scriptures>