

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARROYO GRANDE

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 18, 2016

8:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Music by The Lord's Crew and The Grande Ringers

### Gathering

\*OPENING PRAISE *Angels We Have Heard On High*

HANDBELL INTROIT *Good Christians All, Rejoice* arr. Susan E. Geschke

WELCOMING OUR VISITORS

HANDBELL ANTHEM *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. Kevin McChesney

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE — Love

\*PRAISE *Mary, Did You Know  
Go Tell It on the Mountain*

\*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys & Concerns  
Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

### Sharing and Responding to God's Word

SONG OF ILLUMINATION *Light of the Stable*

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON *"GIFTS FROM GOD:  
Everlasting Love"*  
Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

OFFERING SONG *He Came Down That We May Have Love*

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Words for Communion  
Communion Song

*Silent Night*

### Going Forth to Serve

\*FINAL BLESSING *King of Kings*

\*CLOSING SONG *When A Savior Dreams*

*\*Worshippers stand as able*



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**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:30 AM – CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

10:30 AM - TRADITIONAL SERVICE – CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

1:00 PM – EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY, CRISWELL HALL

7:00 PM – WOMEN OF PRAYER, SANCTUARY

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

8:30 AM –SENIOR EXERCISE, CRISWELL HALL

9:00 AM –SEW ‘N’ SEWS, McMILLAN ROOM

11:00 AM –CHAIR YOGA, CRISWELL HALL

1:00 PM - CHURCH OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE TIL 4:00 PM

5:00 PM –HANDBELL REHEARSAL, HANDBELL ROOM

7:00 PM –JOY Circle

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**

8:30 AM –SENIOR EXERCISE, CRISWELL HALL

9:00 AM –CHURCH WORK DAY

CHILDREN’S CENTER SET UP, CRISWELL HALL, KITCHEN

9:30 AM –MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE, McMILLAN ROOM

12:00 PM - CHILDREN’S CENTER GIVING CELEBRATION EVENT, CRISWELL HALL, KITCHEN

5:00 PM –FREE DINNER, CRISWELL HALL

5:45 PM –ADVENT BOOK STUDY – “UNCLUTTERED HEART”, CRISWELL HALL

7:00 PM –CHANCEL CHOIR, SANCTUARY

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**

8:30 AM –SENIOR EXERCISE, CRISWELL HALL

10:00 AM –INTERCESSORY PRAYER, LIBRARY

5:00 PM –HANDBELL REHEARSAL, HANDBELL ROOM

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**

8:30 AM –BIBLE STUDY, LIBRARY

CHILDREN’S CENTER PIZZA PAJAMA PARTY – MINIMUM DAY---CLOSES AT NOON

CHILDREN’S CENTER CLOSED UNTIL TUESDAY 1/3/17

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> – CHRISTMAS EVE**

7:00 P.M. –CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> – CHRISTMAS DAY**

8:30 AM – ONE CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2016.

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- ◆ A warm welcome to you our Visitors. Thank you for worshipping at First UMC of Arroyo Grande. Whether you are visiting friends or relatives this morning or have made your way on your own, we are glad that you’re here. Please join us for refreshments in Criswell Hall across the narthex fter worship. Welcome!
  - ◆ Please register your presence in the Friendship Book located at the end of the pews nearest the center aisle, and pass it along to others during the service.

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**DECEMBER 18, 2016**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**10:30 AM**

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WELCOMING OUR VISITORS

PRELUDE "Joy to the World" arr. Virgil Fox

## GATHERING

BELL INTROIT "Good Christians All, Rejoice" arr. Susan E. Geschke

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen, do you hear what I hear?

**Songs of love and sounds of joy are all around.**

Look, do you see what I see?

**Signs of love and smiles of joy are all around.**

Pay attention, can you notice what Joseph noticed?

**God's Spirit is all around and always with us.**

Hear words of comfort and wisdom:

**Do not be afraid, for I am with you.**

\*OPENING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" **No. 240**

THE CHILDREN LIGHT THE CANDLE OF LOVE

BELL ANTHEM "Sing We Now of Christmas" arr. Kevin McChesney

A TIME FOR PRAYER

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER "Love Came Down at Christmas" No. 242

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER **Hymnal - Page 10**

CHORAL RESPONSE "Love Came Down at Christmas" No. 242

## PROCLAMATION

THE GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

MEDITATION "GIFTS FROM GOD: Everlasting Love" Rev. Birgelaitis

## OFFERING

OFFERING (*no doxology*)

Offertory "Go Tell It on the Mountain" arr. Jerry Ray

CANTATA "HOPE WAS BORN" by Ed Kee

Chancel Choir directed by Julie Burns with pianist, Dennis Eiler

Hope Was Born  
Unto Us!  
Silent Night  
The Hope of Love  
Love's Name is Jesus  
Great, Great Joy!  
Everlasting Mercy and Never-Ending Grace  
Celebration of Hope (Carol Medley)  
Hope Was born (Reprise)

## SENDING FORTH

### \* BENEDICTION

Let's go with courage and power, for we do not go alone.

**We go with Emmanuel.**

We go as children of God.

**We go as sisters and brothers of Christ.**

Go forth to live the message of Christmas love.

**God's Spirit is all around and always with us.**

Hear words of comfort and wisdom:

**Do not be afraid, for I am with you.**

POSTLUDE "I Saw Three Ships" arr. Cindy Berry

Liturgy from *Words for Worship* ©2015 Mary Scifres and B. J. Beu for Mary Scifres Ministries

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\* Congregation, please stand

\*\*\* Ushers will seat those yet unseated

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



*Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.  
Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.*

Join Us For A

WHO-BILATION !

Sunday, December 18th from 12 PM to 3 PM

SEE YOU AT WHO-VILLE !

Criswell Hall at First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

*All Children are invited to participate in this  
Sunday School Children's Christmas Party,  
which will be held after the 10:30 a.m. service  
TODAY!*



## First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 , 2016

### Today's Scripture

(NRSV)

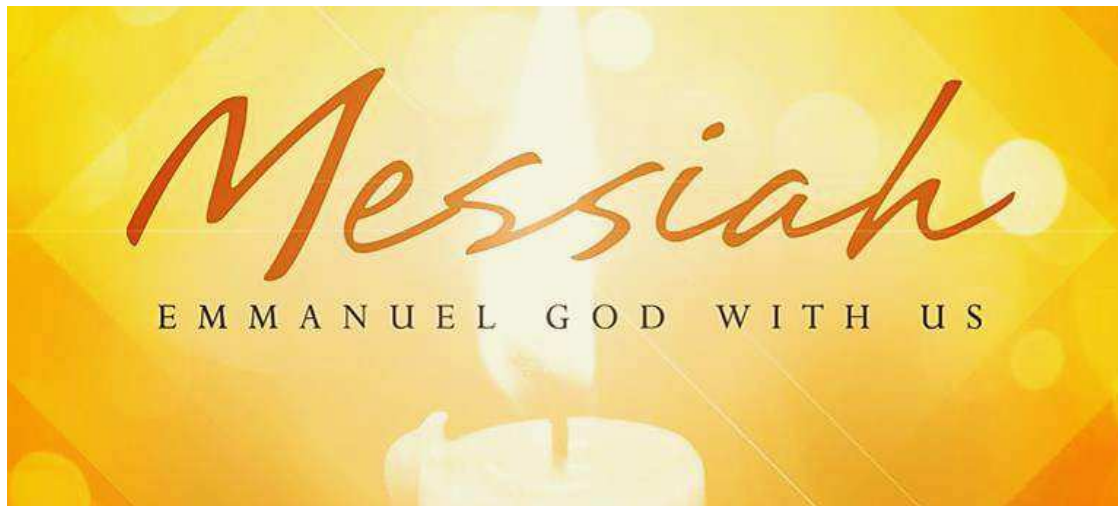
#### Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',  
which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Today's Liturgists: 8:30 Service — Susan Thronson  
10:30 Service — David Beaman*





Coffee Hour Today is hosted by

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Next Week's Coffee Hour  
will be hosted by  
**ALL CHURCH COOKIES**

*We thank you all for your  
Service to our church!*



### The Angel Tree

These are the UNWRAPPED gifts for foster children and other children in need. Today is the last Sunday and tomorrow is the last day to bring in the gifts you signed up to provide. Monday you can bring them to the church office by 3 PM.



Thank you to all the Angels who have participated in the program.

Blessings,  
Jan Treat

In Memory of  
Isabella and Murl  
Sloan's Wedding  
Anniversary-1939



from Lorie Ford

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	TOTAL
Nov 20	42	104	146
Nov 27	40	66	106
Dec 4	32	94	126
Dec 11	30	75	105

### OUR GIFTS

Weekly Offerings Budgeted: \$4,711	
Nov 20 Received:	\$3,752
Nov 27 Received:	\$5,671
Dec 4 Received:	\$9,176
Dec 11 Received:	\$4,269



Fiscal Year to Date Budgeted regular giving: \$113,057  
Fiscal Year to Date Received: \$121,238

*Submitted by Joel Anderson, Acting Treasurer*

## CHRISTMAS 2016 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00 PM ~ Sanctuary

*A Service of  
Lessons and Carols*  
Homily: "Fresh from God"



A LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 8:30 AM ~ Sanctuary A Service of Carols with our Praise Band+

Homily: "Receive"



### ~ CHRISTMAS CANTATA ~

Today during our  
10:30 AM Worship Service  
The Chancel Choir presents  
the Christmas cantata  
"HOPE WAS BORN" by Ed Kee



*A very special thank you  
to the Chancel Choir for  
their beautiful music  
during this Advent and  
Christmas season.*



### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE!

Tuesday, December 20th

1:00 to 4:00 PM

Stop by the office for  
some hot cider and goodies!