



Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
 who brings good news,
 who announces salvation,
 who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
 together they sing for joy;
 for in plain sight they see
 the return of the Lord to Zion.
 Break forth together into singing,
 you ruins of Jerusalem;
 for the Lord has comforted his people,
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
 The Lord has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations;
 and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Today's Liturgist: Susan Thronson

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Contact us.

Church Office: 805 . 481 . 2692
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Monday-Thursday from 9 AM – 1 PM

On The Web @ worshipweekly.com
Office E-mail: fumcag@sbcglobal.net
Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis E-mail: revmaryb@fumcag.org



Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

Program Tours Daily by appointment ONLY on Monday through Friday 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM.
We invite you to visit and see if we are a good fit for your family.

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Cal-Pac Conference Bishop:

Grant J. Hagiya

North District Superintendent:

Rev. James Powell

Senior Pastor:

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Missionary (retired) / Lay Leader:

Judy Atwood

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Frances Robertson

Website Manager:

Jamie Foster

Choir Director:

Julie Burns

Choral Pianist:

Dennis Eiler

Praise Team Leader:

Mike Clark

Handbell Choir Director:

Leonard Lutz

Multi-Media Director:

Duncan Leonard

Children's Education Director:

TBS
AG UM Children's Center
Director: Madrigal Quaglino
(805) 481-2223

8:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE



December 24, 2017



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Welcome to Worship!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

8:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering

OPENING PRAISE *O Come All Ye Faithful*

WELCOMING OUR VISITORS

PRAISE *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
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 *Little Drummer Boy*

ADVENT CANDLE BLESSING/PRAYER

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 52:7-10
Luke 2:1-14*

SERMON *ADVENT HIGHWAYS:
Road to Bethlehem*

OFFERING SONG *To Bethlehem We Go*

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION *Breath of Heaven*

FINAL BLESSING *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*CLOSING *When a Savior Dreams*

*Worshippers stand as able



Coffee Hour Today is hosted by

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Next Week's Coffee Hour will be hosted by CARING CONGREGATION

We thank you all for your service to our church!

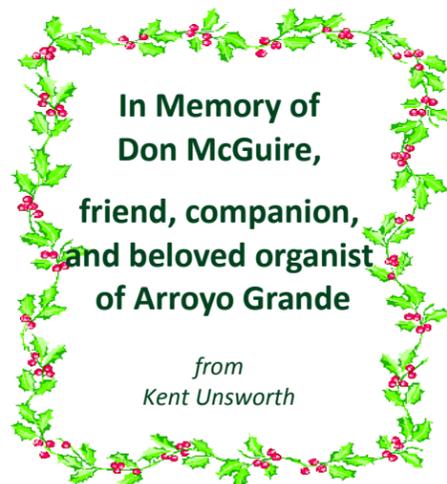


TABLE OF 8 PROGRAM

We are currently forming the social dinner groups of 6 to 8 people. Those who want to continue to participate need to sign up again.

New members are most welcome as well as returnees!

Contact Marjorie Ott or Lucy Jacob for more information and sign-up forms.

Abbreviation Legend

(S) Sanctuary (PL) Parking Lot
(L) Library (CH) Criswell Hall
(MMR) McMillen Room (K) Kitchen
(PS) Pastor's Study (HR) Handbell Room



Monday—12/25

- Church office closed
- No Emergency Pantry

Tuesday—12/26

- No Senior Exercise this week
- Sew 'n' Sews + Knitters—9 AM—MMR
- UMW Chair Yoga Class—11 AM—CH

Wednesday—12/27

- No Senior Exercise
- Church Work Day—9:00 AM
- Free Fellowship Dinner—5 PM—CH
- Adult Study Class—5:45 PM—CH
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal—7 PM—S

Thursday—12/28

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- Intercessory Prayer—10 AM—L

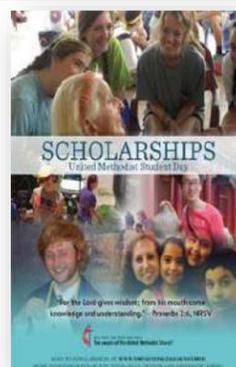
Friday—12/29

- Bible Study—8:30 AM—L

Saturday—12/30

- Nothing currently scheduled

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The Angel Tree

The Angel Tree was set up in the Narthex during the Hanging of the Greens! The Angel Tree gifts are for foster children and other needy children in San Luis Obispo County. Thank you to all who so generously provided gifts for 55 children in our community this Christmas!

Blessings to you all ~ Jan Treat

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FAITHFUL: *Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*

by Adam Hamilton
Final session, Wednesday
December 27
Criswell Hall 5:45-6:45 PM

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Nov 26	41	78	119
Dec 3	47	90	137
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Dec 17	45	111	156

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 Plan: \$7,600
 Joel Anderson, Acting Treasurer

WORSHIP SERVICES TODAY DECEMBER 24th



Advent IV

ADVENT HIGHWAYS:
"Bethlehem Road"

8:30 AM Contemporary Service
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Christmas Eve Service

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS:

"Love's Pure Light"

7:00 PM

Service of

Scripture, Carols and Candlelight

Isaiah 52:7-10



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 are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
 who brings good news,
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First United Methodist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

10:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

CENTERING WORDS

"We are better throughout the year for having, in spirit,
 become a child again at Christmas."

~ Laura Ingalls Wilder

WELCOMING OUR VISITORS

PRELUDE *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day /*
Carol of the Bells Marks/Leontovich/Calkin

INTROIT *Love Came Down at Christmas* verse 1 No. 242

*CALL TO WORSHIP

People get ready . . . it's almost Christmas Eve.
The Christ child is almost here.
 People get ready . . . the world is ready for a change.
We're ready for a change.
 People get ready . . . for darkness to turn to light,
We're ready for justice to turn everything upside down.
 Let's get ready together.
**Let's worship the One who is changing the world
 with love.**

*OPENING CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* verses 1,3 & 6 No. 234

OPENING PRAYER

**Mighty One, send your presence
 into our worship, our lives, and our world.
 Shine the light of your justice and hope
 into the hearts of those trapped in despair.
 Send the Christ child once again
 to focus our hearts and minds
 on the miraculous love of God.
 We rejoice in the holy child
 who taught us the way of love.**

ADVENT CANDLE BLESSING/PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Nursery care is available.
 Children ages K-6 are dismissed with their teachers at this time

ANTHEM *Kneeling at the Manger* Hank Beebe

A TIME OF PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer *Love Came Down at Christmas* vs. 2 No. 242
 Congregational Prayer
 Choral Response *Love Came Down at Christmas* vs. 2 No. 242

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 52:7-10
 Luke 2:1-14

CAROL (*remain seated*) *What Child Is This?* No. 219

SERMON ADVENT HIGHWAYS:
Bethlehem's Road

OFFERING

Invitation to the Offering
 Offertory *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* Trad. English Carol
 *Doxology/Blessing of the Offering

*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.*

*HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* No. 224

*BENEDICTION

Ready or not, Christmas is here.
Ready or not, we are called to bring Christmas to the world
 Ready or not, we are sent to turn things upside down—
 with light to shine in the darkness, and love to overcome hate.
Ready or not, let's get going and bring Christmas to the world we know and love.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Love Came Down at Christmas* vs. 3 No. 242

**Love shall be our taken; love be yours and love be mine
 Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.**

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*
 Trad. German Melody, arr. Lloyd Larson



*Worshippers stand as able

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The Bulletin Board



Coffee Hour Today is hosted by FINANCE COMMITTEE
Next Week's Coffee Hour will be hosted by CARING CONGREGATION
We thank you all for your service to our church!



In Memory of Don McGuire,
friend, companion, and beloved organist
from Kent Unsworth

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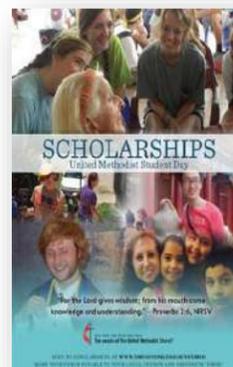
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The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

*Christmas Eve
A Service of Lessons and Carols*

December 24, 2017

7:00 PM

ORGAN PRELUDE

*Jesus, Dwell Thou With Us
Christmas Meditations*

Roger C. Wilson

INTROIT

The Snow Lay on the Ground

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which has come to all people, for to you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord!

Unto us a Child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

And the government shall be upon his shoulders.

His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

*OPENING CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful
verses 1, 3 & 6

No. 234

CHRISTMAS EVE WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

ANTHEM

This Holy Night

Mary McDonald

INVOCATION

***O God,
We come tonight to Bethlehem, in quietness and peace. We kneel at the manger to behold the miracle. The glory of Your Love is revealed in the Christ Child. With awe and reverence we worship. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let your love be born in us anew. Amen.***

THE BIRTH FORETOLD

SOLO

A Holy Child is Born

Sally DeFord

Isaiah 11:1-6

CAROL *(remain seated)*

Lo, How a Rose verses 1—3

No. 216

THE ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY

Luke 1:26-33

CAROL *(remain seated)*

O Little Town of Bethlehem
verses 1, 3 & 4

No. 230

THE BIRTH/MARY'S SONG

Luke 2:1-7

SOLO

Breath of Heaven

Amy Grant

THE ANGEL'S SONG

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL *(remain seated)*

Angels We Have Heard on High
Verses 1 & 2, Soloist
Verses 3 & 4, Congregation

No. 238

THE SHEPHERD'S RESPONSE

Luke 2:15-20

CAROL *(remain seated)*

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
verses 1 & 2

No. 236

THE WISEMEN'S RESPONSE

Matthew 2:1-12

ANTHEM:

Kneeling at the Manger

Hank Beebe

OUR RESPONSE

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

CELLO SOLO

O Holy Night

John Sullivan Dwight

HOMILY

"LOVE'S PURE LIGHT"

*CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 240

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Offertory

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Trad. English Carol
arr. Dan Coates

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

CANDLELIGHTING

For safety, as we light candles, please hold the lit candle completely upright and let your neighbor tilt the unlit candle to receive the flame from your light. The pianist will play while the candles are being lit. We will not begin singing *Silent Night* until all the candles are lit. When the piano and choir begin *Silent Night*, please begin singing.

CAROL *(remain seated)*

Silent Night Holy Night

(please refer to insert for words)

*THE BENEDICTION

*CLOSING CAROL *(please stand)*

Joy to the World

(please refer to insert for words)

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Trad. German Melody
arr. Lloyd Larson

PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE:

Chancel Choir
Choir Director, Julie Burns
Pianist, Dennis Eiler
Organist, Bradley Bettencourt
Cellist, Rosslyn Clauson

Soloists, Julie Burns, Carolyn Eaton,
Chloe Keith, Mariane Phelp
Preacher, Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Ushers, Harry Egan, Del Hollinger
Sound Technician, Duncan Leonard

