



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 2, 2018 | 9:30 A.M.



*Christ in Majesty* (from a medieval English psalter)



## WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us this Advent. Founded in 1821, First Church is the oldest Protestant church in the area and the oldest Methodist church in Florida. This historic church, with four regular Sunday services, has a membership of 3200 and is overflowing with life. If you are visiting, we hope that you will consider becoming a member of our church family. You may join any Sunday by profession of faith or transfer of membership. Come and be a part of what God is doing here this season.

## ADVENT

Today is the First Sunday of Advent! The Advent season marks the start of a new church year. The season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends at sundown on Christmas Eve. Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning “coming.” It is a season to prepare for the coming of Christ in various meanings: the promised coming of the Messiah to the Jews, the coming of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, the promised return of the risen Christ in final victory, and the continual coming of Christ into the lives and hearts of believers. Join us throughout this Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the coming.

## NURSERY & CHILDREN’S BULLETINS

Nursery is available this morning for children up to five years old. If you need help locating the nursery, please see an usher or greeter for assistance. Also, children’s worship bulletins and crayons are available in the narthex.

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our mom, Ruth Hutcheson by Lisa Hutcheson and Sarah Harris, and in loving memory of Mitzi Miller on her birthday by Connie and Mike Vance and Watson and Anne Aldridge.

## TODAY’S LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES<sup>1</sup>

The Christian Year opens with promises and prayers: promises of the coming reign of God and prayers that the people God will be ready for that reign.

**The Old Testament—Jeremiah 33:14-16.** “an announcement that the ancient promise of a Davidic messiah will be fulfilled and Jerusalem will dwell secure.”

**The Psalter—Psalm 25:1-10.** “a prayer for help and forgiveness, reaffirming the righteousness and faithfulness of God, which are expressed in the reading from Jeremiah 33.

**The Epistle—1 Thessalonians 3:9-13.** “Paul’s prayer that he be allowed to join the faithful in Thessalonica becomes a petition that they be ready for the coming of the Lord.”

**The Gospel—Luke 21:25-26.** “sets the season of Advent into an eschatological (a ‘future-oriented’) framework: the signs in the heavens indicate that the kingdom of God is near.”

# ***OUR WORSHIP OF GOD***

9:30am

the First Sunday of Advent

## **WELCOME**

## **PRELUDE**

Dr. Rick Branch, *organ*

“Angels We Have Heard on High” *arr. Chip Davis*

## **\*CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

“The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together”

(Isaiah 40:5)

## **LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE— THE CANDLE OF HOPE**

The Wiggins Family

“See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will  
come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn,”  
(Isaiah 60:2-3)

## **\*HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” <sup>1</sup>

**No. 211**

## **\*COLLECT**

Rev. Brandon Bures

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put  
on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your  
Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living  
and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

## **\*GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 21:25-36

## **SERMON**

Dr. Wesley H. Wachob

“Advent: Awakening to God”

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### **CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Merciful god,  
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were still sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

*Response:*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

*All:*

**Glory to God. Amen.**

*[from UMH 12]*

### **\*THE PEACE**

All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

### **REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE**

Please register your attendance on the registration pad. If you are visiting with us, include your address, telephone number, and email address so that we may welcome you in a more personal way.

### **OFFERTORY**

“Creator of the Stars of Night”  
*arr. L.K. Hargrave*

Libby K. Hargrave, *solo*

## **\*DOXOLOGY**

**No. 94**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**No. 13**

You are invited to come forward to the altar to receive the elements of Holy Communion.

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

“Christians All, Our Lord is Coming”

*words by Jim Miller; music by Joshua Leavitt*

## **INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

Anyone who wishes to join the church today, please come forward during the last stanza of the closing hymn.

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

**No. 204**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

## **\*GOING FORTH**

## **POSTLUDE**

“People, Look East” *arr. L.K. Hargrave*

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\*Stand as you are able

## **<sup>1</sup> HYMN NOTES**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (words, 9th century Latin; music, 15th century French)—From the seven antiphons sung in the medieval Roman Church at Vespers before and after the Magnificat (Mary’s Song), just prior to Christmas, sometime in the 13th century five were selected for a hymn and the “Rejoice, rejoice” refrain added. Biblical references to the Great “O”s are: Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14), Root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:10), Dayspring (Malachi 4:2), Key of David (Isaiah 22:22), and O Lord (Adonai) (Exodus 3:15). The purpose of Advent is to prepare for Christmas, as Lent prepares for Easter.

## **THOSE SERVING TODAY**

9:30. USHERS – Jake Odom, Steve Colony & James Carraway; COMMUNION STEWARD – Diane Turner; GREETERS – Karen S. Thompson & Susan Cole; COMMUNION SERVERS – Gena Buchana & Linda McDade.

## MISSION FOCUS: DECEMBER

### Missions That Help Children and Youth

We are called to care for children. Isaiah 1:17 commands us to “Learn to do good! Seek justice! Help the oppressed! Defend the orphan! Fight for the rights of widows!” Scripture also tells us to teach children the words of God (Deut. 4:10; 6:7) and not to prevent them from discovering Jesus (Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16). There are an estimated 153 million orphaned and vulnerable children around the world. In the United States there are nearly 400,000 children in the foster care system. As a denomination, The United Methodist Church houses, feeds, and clothes millions of children around the globe each year. As a local church, we participate in a variety of missions that focus on helping children. These missions include (but are not limited to) the United Methodist Children’s Home, Kids Feeding Program, United Ministries, Angel Tree Program, Great Day of Giving, White Christmas Offering, and Milk and Honey Outreach Ministries. See the announcements to read about how you can help with some of these missions.

### Call to Action

Be a part of the Great Day of Giving today, grab an angel from the Angel Tree, and/or attend the White Christmas Concert tonight and contribute to the White Christmas special offering.

## DAILY READINGS<sup>2</sup>

Beginning in this new church year, the Daily Readings will be taken from “The Daily Office Lectionary” in The Book of Common Prayer. The Daily Office Lectionary expands the range of biblical reading in worship and personal devotion by providing daily citations for a two-year cycle.

	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Old Test.</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
MONDAY	1, 2, 3	Isa 1:10-20	1 Thess 1:1-10	Lk 20:1-8
TUESDAY	5, 6	Isa 1:21-31	1 Thess 2:1-12	Lk 20:9-18
WEDNESDAY	119:1-24	Isa 2:1-11	1 Thess 2:13-20	Lk 20:19-26
THURSDAY	18:1-20	Isa 2:12-22	1 Thess 3:1-13	Lk 20:27-40
FRIDAY	16, 17	Isa 3:8-15	1 Thess 4:1-12	Lk 20:41—21:4
SATURDAY	20	Isa 4:2-6	1 Thess 4:13-18	Lk 21:5-19

## NEXT WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Join us next week here at First Church as we come together to worship God on the Second Sunday of Advent on which we will light the candle of love. Dr. Wachob will preach at the 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am worship services here in the Main Sanctuary. The Rev. Brandon Bures will preach the ICON worship service at 11:00am in Wesley Abbey. Next Sunday’s readings: *Malachi 3:1-4 • Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208) • Philippians 1:3-11 • Luke 3:1-6.*

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<sup>1</sup> The Revised Common Lectionary Year C. The introductions are from *Preaching through the Christian Year, Year C: A Comprehensive Commentary on the Lectionary* (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1994), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> From “The Daily Office Lectionary Year One” in *The Book of Common Prayer* (New York: Church Publishing Incorporated; 2007), p. 936.