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Third Sunday of Advent • December 15, 2013

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”
— Isaiah 7:14

WE GATHER

WELCOME
Rev. Robert English

PRELUDE
Sleepers Wake! (J. S. Bach)
Ty Woodward, Organist

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN
#240 United Methodist Hymnal – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
Melanie Hutsell, Lay Lector

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, “Rejoice!”
Let us pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances.
The coming of the Lord is near.
God’s name be praised.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE
“O hearken ye who would believe, the gracious tidings now receive; Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
The mighty Lord of heav’n and earth, today is come to human birth. Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.”

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
Please greet those worshipping near you.

As a courtesy to others, please silence all cell phones/sound-making devices. *Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.
OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE
Rev. English
We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service. Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
Kurt Poland
#2233 The Faith We Sing — Where Children Belong
This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.
As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES
The Schlitter Family
Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:
Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways—in angel appearances, in good news for the poor, in hope made new—show us the face of Emmanuel in our time. Amen.

#217 UMH — Away in a Manger (verse 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 fit us for heaven to live with thee there.
As the congregation sings, the children may go to their Sunday School classes.

ANTHEM
Amadeus Handbell Choir/Mary Crawford, Director
Good King Wenceslas (arr. Jerome Malek)

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD
Melanie Hutsell
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Pew Bible page 540-541, O.T.)

THE FIRST LESSON
Melanie Hutsell
Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible page 1, N.T.)
Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

SERMON
Rev. Patricia Farris
“The Real Gift of Christmas”

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER
Rev. English
Within Our Darkest Night (Choir and congregation)
Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD
Rev. English
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES
The offering plates will be passed to gather our gifts for the mission and work of the church. You will find an envelope in the pew rack for your offering. Please make checks payable to "First UMC." We thank you for your generous support for the mission and ministries of the congregation. If you would like more information, please fill out the attendance pad at your pew. You will find church brochures at the Welcome Table as you leave the service. You may also give online at www.santamonicaumc.org.

THE OFFERTORY
The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director
E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come (Paul O. Manz)
Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing Holy, Holy, Holy! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon! E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

RESPONSE #95 UMH — The Doxology

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth—giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

HYMN
#249 UMH — There’s a Song in the Air

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE
Ukrainian Carol of the Bells (arr. Glenn Shields Daun)
Amadeus Handbell Choir/Mary Crawford, Director

Worship concludes with the Postlude music which prepares us to transition from worship to life in the world. You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude concludes, or to exit quietly.
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W E H E A R G O D ’ S W O R D

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Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 (Pew Bible page 540-541, O.T.)  Melanie Hutsell
Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

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Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible page 1, N.T.)  Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

SERMON
“The Real Gift of Christmas”  Rev. Patricia Farris

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LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER
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December 15, 2013

WELCOME TO FIRST UMC

Rev. Patricia Farris

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica welcomes you to this community of faith. You’ll find singles, seniors, families with young children, youth, newly-weds, young adults … and a full range of programs and opportunities for worship, study, service and fellowship. ALL ARE WELCOME.

During this season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of new love and hope in the Christ Child, we invite you into this journey of faith. What we believe and how we try to live can be summed up in these three affirmations:

God is real and God is love.
Every person matters. You matter.
Together we can change the world.

If you’re visiting today, we have a gift for you—see an usher after worship for a candle to take with you. May it help light your way to a new and brighter tomorrow.

Advent Podcasts

This Advent season listen to weekly devotional podcasts by Rev. Patricia Farris, Rev. Robert English, and Kurt Poland. Check them out on the church website or by scanning this QR code.

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258 · info@santamonicaumc.org

W O R K S H O P S

Angel Tree - Today
First UMC’s Missions Council is supporting Upward Bound House’s Family Place by providing needed items for each family. Visit the table in Simkins Hall in the Shelby Center during Coffee Fellowship to choose your gift. Wrap and return it to the church office by this Wednesday, December 18.

Share the Spirit of Christmas – Today
The Alternative Christmas Fair sponsored by the Missions Council will be December 15 & 22 during Coffee Fellowship. Walk through the displays, learn more about each project, and choose your alternative gift. For the list of programs being supported, visit www.santamonicaumc.org under News & Events.

Poinsettias
If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please stop by the Sunday Hospitality Table or contact the church office by this Wednesday, December 18. They are $12 per plant.

Cherish the Gift
Have you committed yourself to the practice and principles of Christian stewardship for the glory of God and growth of this church? If not, now is the time to fill out a gift card for 2014. We are $47k from plan. Support from each member is needed. Every Gift Matters.

Ending 2013 in Good Health
We look forward to everyone closing out their 2013 pledges. There’s $60k to go! Stop by the office, mail or make payment online via our church website. We will be accepting 2013 payments through the first week of January. Thank you for your support!

Financial Peace University
Need to get your financial house in order in the New Year? Join our 9-week Financial Peace University class starting January 8, led by Ben Schlitter. More information is found at: http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/org/46889/class/246000.

Highlights

December 15, 2013

Highlight

* Westside Food Bank collection for December: Peanut butter and other nut butters.
* Sundays at First UMC
  8:45 a.m. Youth Handbell Choir Rehearsal, CHR
  9 a.m. Lectionary Scripture Discussion, FR
  9 a.m. Partnership with God, 101
  9:15 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, 300
  9:20 a.m. Children’s Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
  9:30 a.m. Nursery Care, 204
  10 a.m. Worship Service, S
  10:10 a.m. Sunday School, Education Bldg.
  10:50 a.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, 108
  11 a.m. Fellowship, SH/Alcove
  6:15 p.m. UMYF, YL

Today - 3rd Sunday of Advent
11 a.m. Angel Tree Donations, SH
11 a.m. Alternative Christmas, SH
11 a.m. Blood Pressure Screenings, SH
12:30 p.m. C.A.S.T. Seussical Jr. Performance, SH

Monday, December 16
9:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Group, FR

Tuesday, December 17
7 a.m. Men’s Breakfast, FR
7:30 p.m. Amadeus Handbell Choir, CHR

Wednesday, December 18
6 p.m. UBH Family Christmas Party, SH

Thursday, December 19
7 p.m. Cross(+)Brew, OS
7:40 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, CR

Sunday, December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent • Lessons & Carols
11 a.m. Alternative Christmas, SH

Christmas Eve Services
4 p.m. “No Muss, No Fuss” Family Christmas Pageant
11 p.m. Candlelight Service

Scan this QR code with your smart phone to go directly to First UMC’s online giving page.

CHR = Choir Room; CR = Conference Room; CY = Courtyard; FR = Fireside Room; MH = Member’s Home; OS = Off Site; S = Sanctuary; SH = Simkins Hall; WR = Work Room (UMW); YL = Youth Lounge

WWW.SANTAMONICAUMC.ORG

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