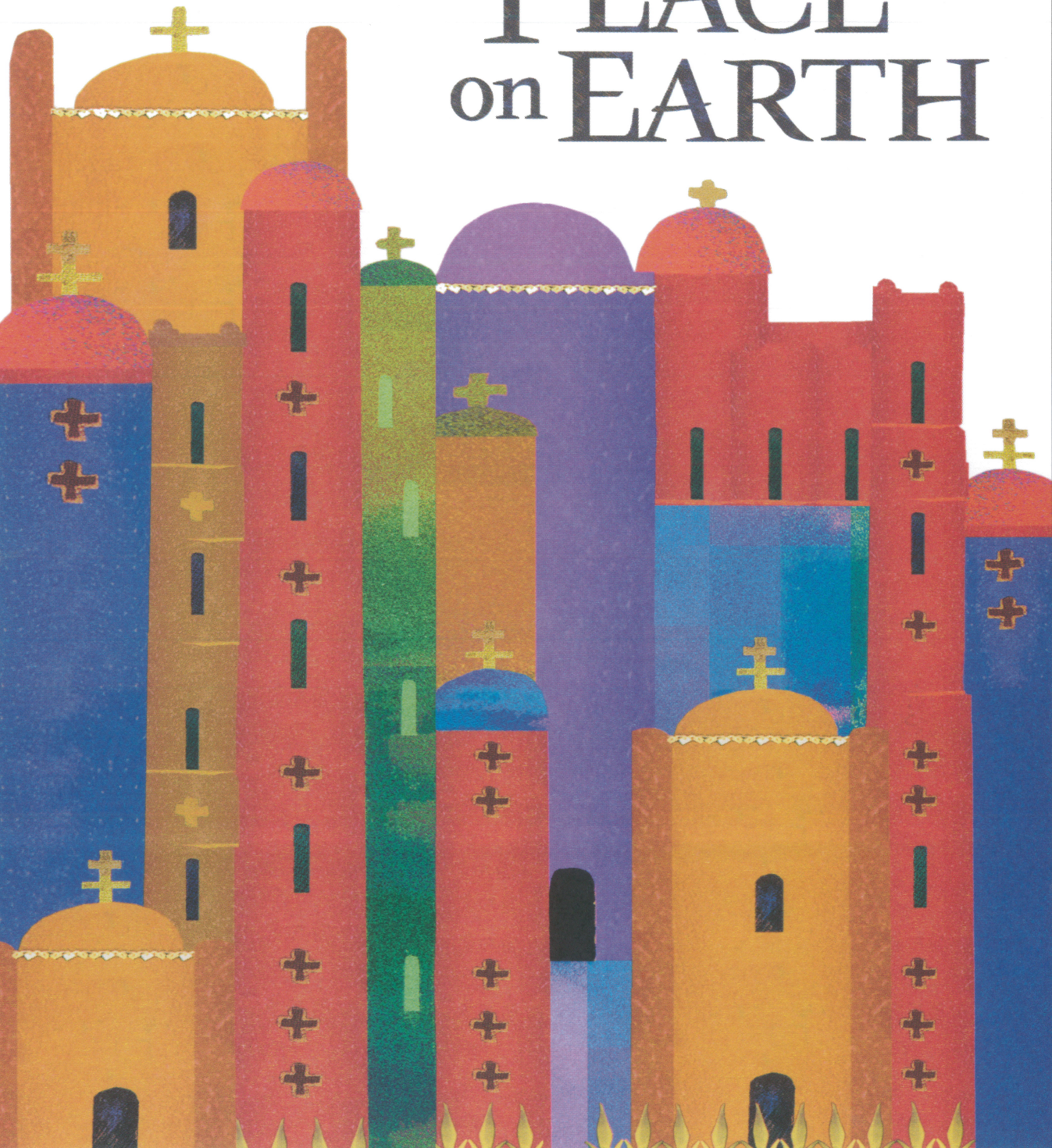


PEACE on EARTH



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2012

PRELUDE – Christmas Music for Harp

Amy Wilkins, Harp

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kurt Poland

Please fill out the attendance pad at your pew and pass it to your neighbors, then back down to the end.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #234 United Methodist Hymnal – O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1-3)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ron Theile, Lay Lector

He came as a baby in a manger.

O come let us adore him.

He came in a lowly stable.

O come let us adore him.

Shepherds brought their worship.

O come let us adore him.

Angels sang his praise.

O come let us adore him.

Magi brought their gifts.

O come let us adore him.

What shall we do?

O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Pascoe Family

Congregation joins in the prayer after lighting:

O God, you have caused this night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven's hastening victory; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

ANTHEM – The Star Carol (Alfred Burt)

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

THE LESSON Isaiah 9:2b-4,6-7

Ron Theile

A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Michael Lamb, Lay Lector

HYMN #230 UMH – O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 & 4)

UNISON PRAYER

O God our redeemer, when we have strayed from your paths, you light our way home. You send us your Holy One to guide the way. Let us follow in the way of your light, walking faithfully in the paths of justice and peace which lead to abundant life. Let the star of your hope touch our minds and hearts this night with bright beams of mercy and truth. May we find our way home to the fullness of your love for us, and for the whole creation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT 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

Nowell, Nowell (Randall Thompson)

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

Michael Lamb

HYMN #219 UMH – What Child Is This

RECEIVING OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Rev. Robert English

You will find an envelope in the pew rack for your Christmas Offering. Please make checks payable to "First UMC." The offering plates will be passed to gather our gifts. 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 santamonicaumc.org.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

There Is No Rose (from The Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten)

* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. English

O Holy God, in whom all hearts find welcome, we worship you this night with the simplest wonder. We are filled with love and hope because you offer us your life and your light. We offer back to you the gift of our hearts and our praise. May the birth of the Christ Child renew our lives and rekindle our hope. Amen.

HYMN #250 UMH – Once in Royal David's City

SERMON "The Promise of This Night"

Rev. Patricia Farris

MOMENTS OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION – Lighting of the Christ Candle

* THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

As the ushers come forward, the congregation will stand and remain standing until the end of the service. The lights in the sanctuary will be turned out. The minister will light her candle and the ushers will light their candles from hers. The ushers will then light the candle of the first person in each pew, and they in turn will light the candle of their neighbor and so on, until all the candles in the pew are lit. It is requested that no lit candles be tipped. Candles are to be extinguished at the conclusion of the service.

* HYMN #239 UMH – Silent Night, Holy Night

During the singing of the last stanza, the congregation will hold their candles aloft.

* THE RINGING OF THE BELL

* HYMN #246 UMH – Joy to the World

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE In Dulci Jubilo (J.S. Bach)

Dr. Christoph Bull, Organ

*As a courtesy to others, please silence all cell phones/sound-making devices. *Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

Rev. Patricia Farris, Senior Minister
Rev. Robert English, Youth & Intergenerational Ministries
Kurt Poland, Children & Family Ministries Director
Dr. James Smith, Music Director
The Chancel Choir
Dr. Christoph Bull, Organ
Amy Wilkins, Harp
Lay Lectors: Ron Theile, Michael Lamb
Acolytes: Jake Erlandson & Preston Searfoss
Crucifer: James Edwards
A/V Engineer: Adam Guerrero
Head Usher: Al Mead

An area labeled "Kids Zone" in the Narthex is open to all parents with small children during tonight's worship. You may sit or play with your children and still hear the service. A changing station is provided in the restroom in the hallway west of the Fireside Room. Please see one of our Ushers if you need assistance.

Welcome! We count it a privilege and a blessing to worship with you on this joyous Christmas Eve. If you come as a guest, we hope you will leave as a friend.

College students are invited to a reception in the Fireside Room following this service. Friends are also welcome!

We express our appreciation to the Seasonal Displays Committee, Mike Eskridge, Chairperson, for the special floral arrangements and greens that beautify the sanctuary. If you dedicated poinsettias, you may take them home tonight.

Information about the ministries of our church is available just outside the Sanctuary doors at our Welcome Table. For more information about what we offer, or to contact one of our pastors or staff members, visit our church website at www.santamonicaumc.org, or call the church office.

We hope to see you again soon! Weekly Sunday worship services are at 10:00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SANTA MONICA
1008 11th Street • Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org
310-393-8258 • info@santamonicaumc.org



JANUARY *at* FIRST UMC

Pick up a copy of the First UMC brochure at the Welcome Table at the Sanctuary doors as you depart. If you would like more information or have questions, use the attendance pad at your pew to write your message and contact information. We will be happy to contact you.

We hope to see you again soon! Here are a few upcoming events...

Communication In Action

The final part in this 3-part series focuses on "Talking to People in Power." Please join the Health Ministry Council and facilitator Jean Young, MFT, on Sunday January 6 in the Fireside Room, starting with a light lunch at 11:15 am.

January Mid-Week Recital

Join us for the January Mid-Week Recital featuring Ty Woodward, organist, on Wednesday January 9, at 12:10 pm in the Sanctuary. These monthly concerts are free and open to the public and perfect for your lunch break. All are welcome!

CAST: Children's After School Theater

CAST is proud to announce their Fall/Winter Production of:

Willy Wonka Jr.

Join our 1st - 4th graders as they enter the Scrumdiddlyumptious Chocolate Factory.

Performances are: Friday January 11 at 7pm, Saturday and Sunday, January 12 and 13 at 12:30 pm.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors/children. At 11:15 am on Sunday January 13, there will be a brunch before the performance. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and include brunch and a ticket to the matinee.

Also look for upcoming audition dates for our Spring productions. Please contact Dane Rold at cast@santamonicaumc.org or call the church office at 310-393-8258.

Basic Christian Beliefs

Christianity is a book religion – meaning that the ideas behind the beliefs are as important to faith as the beliefs themselves. If you are interested in pursuing a deeper understanding of the world of ideas behind the beliefs of the Christian faith, please come join us for a 6-week class on Basic Christian Beliefs taught by Kurt Poland, Sundays January 20 - February 27 in Room 101 at 11:30am. Remember, what's most basic is what's most important.

January Book Study with Rev. Patricia Farris

Just 2½ weeks after our January Book Study, our next Haiti Work Team will leave for Haiti. Members of the former and current teams will join us on January 27, 11:30 - 1 pm, to share their first-hand experiences of Haiti. The book in discussion will be *Rubble Nation: Haiti's Pain, Haiti's Promise* by Chris Herlinger and Paul Jeffrey. With photos by UM missionary Paul Jeffrey and commentary by freelance journalist Chris Herlinger, this book will challenge, illuminate and inspire. Copies are available in the church office and at the Sunday Hospitality Table.

Men's Bible Study & Breakfast

Rev. Robert English leads the Men's Bible Study group each Tuesday at 7:00 am in our Fireside Room. All men in the church are welcome to this one-hour gathering which includes a simple breakfast, personal conversation, brief study of Bible passages and shared prayer.

Ongoing for Children, Youth & Adults

We offer **Sunday school classes** and **Music Groups** for all ages. Our **Children's Ministry** provides family programming and events throughout the year.

The active **United Methodist Youth Fellowship** gathers almost every Sunday night throughout the year with the aim of developing thoughtful disciples of Christ and nurturing relationships.

Open Table and **the bridge** are young adult groups that meet weekly and on other occasions for discussion, fellowship, service projects, special events and retreats.

Long-standing adult groups such as **Sharerangers** and the **Partnership with God** class offer meaningful study, fellowship and special events throughout the year.

Family Connection is exactly what it sounds like, and our **United Methodist Women** work long and hard to raise funds for mission all year long.

Please contact the church office and speak with one of our pastors if you would like information about **baptism** or **church membership**.

Our ministerial team also offers **pastoral care**. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Be sure to visit the church website for more information about the ministries and programs we offer: www.santamonicaumc.org.

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