

Prelude "The First Noel" vs. 1,2 #245

Welcome & Announcements Worship Leader: Angie McConkey

Christ's Light Enters "What Child is This?" vs. 1,2 #219

Lighting Advent Candles

(The first three candles are lit, the candles of Faith, Hope and Love.)

The Gospel of Luke tells how Mary meets her cousin Elizabeth:
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a
loud cry,

**"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your
womb."**

God speaks in many ways:

**Through dreams, visions, new ideas, the witness and wisdom of
others.**

We light our fourth candle, asking that we may bear God's call in our
body, mind, and spirit.

(The fourth candle is lit, the candle of Wisdom.)

Living Christ, give us Faith to trust you and Hope to follow you,
Love to live for you, and wisdom to know you..

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

*Opening Song

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/ God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

Opening Prayer

**Almighty God, you inspired Mary, mother of your Son, Jesus, to
visit Elizabeth and assist her in her need. Keep us open to the
working of your Spirit, and with Mary may we praise you
forever. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Liturgist: Kurt Kocher

Micah 5:2-5a

Children's Moment:

Puppets

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-55

Message "Double Vision" Pastor Melanie Adams

Song "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #229

Sharing of Prayers: Celebrations and Concerns

Silent Meditation & Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer #895

Offertory "Long, Long Ago" Praise Band

Advent Doxology

*Offertory Prayer [Unison]

**Loving God, you have blessed us time and time again throughout
our lives. We, like Mary, can magnify you by proclaiming, "My
spirit rejoices in God my Savior!" We place these gifts on your
altar as we seek to change people's lives – to empower social
justice, to feed the hungry, to offer mercy to the outcast, to lift up
the lowly. In the name of the Prince of Peace we pray. Amen.**

***Closing Song** "Angels We Have Heard on High" #238

Our Purpose

What is our purpose? **To provide a place for all to BELONG to
our community, BELIEVE in and experience the transforming
love of Jesus Christ, and BECOME his disciples.
BELONG! BELIEVE! BECOME!**

Benediction

Benediction Response "Angels We Have Heard on High" #238
refrain only

Postlude

UPDATED 740 Prayer Initiative

*(Thank you for stepping up your
prayers for our congregation! Set
your phones to remind yourself to stop
at 7:40 am and/or 7:40 pm each day
to pray for our church and the mission
and ministry we are called to do.
Where did we come up with the
number 740? It is our street address
number. If you can't pray at 7:40,
choose another time. The important
thing is that we are praying!)*

Scriptures for prayer: "So let us not
grow weary in doing what is right, for
we will reap at harvest-time, if we do
not give up" Galatians 6:9.

"Glory to God, who is able to do far
beyond all that we could ask or
imagine by his power at work within
us" Ephesians 3:20.

Please pray that God continues to
work in our hearts and through the
work of our hands so that others may
also come to experience Christ's love.
Pray that God would lead us and
equip us for the living out of our
purpose (what we repeat at the end of
each service). And pray that God help
each of us to be a follower of Christ
committed to living a life of worship
& hospitality, a life of opening our
heart to the Holy Spirit, and a life of
service & generosity. Pray for those
who are seated around you in
worship, whether you know them by
name or not. Remember to lift up the
need of our community and world.
Pray the news: as you listen to the
news of each day pray about each
situation.

Give thanks to God! "Rejoice
always, pray without ceasing, give
thanks in all circumstances; for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus for
you" 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

PRAYERS

Please see the Prayer Board outside the office for ongoing prayer requests.

Pray for our congregation: For the ministry of making, nurturing, and sending out of disciples; because we believe that God's Love is the answer for the most difficult questions of our world today.

Jesus changes lives!

Gerald Campbell

Family of Nita Lambert Culley

Hannah Kircher

Taryn Mosher

Family of Sherrie Radcliffe

Emily Sporer

Bill Valcoure

Waterman Family

Marti Valek Wilber

Jean Wilcox



Thoughts to Ponder

What does the phrase "God's vulnerable and yet all powerful love" mean to you? How do we respond to such love?

Events this week in church:

Sunday, December 23rd

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Fellowship

Monday, December 24th

5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 26th

Holiday Week - No Regular Activities

Sunday, December 30th

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Fellowship



Monday, December 24th

Office Closes at Noon

Tuesday, December 25th

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26th

Regular Hours

Monday, December 31st

Regular Hours

Tuesday, January 1st

Office Closed



**FUMC
Salvation
Army Bell
Ringers**



"K-BETH Live: An Advent Drama



December 23, 2018

First United Methodist Church

740 West 11th St, Concordia, KS 66901

Church (785) 243-4560

Office Hours:

MONDAY: 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

TUESDAY: 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

WEDNESDAY: 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

THURSDAY: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

FRIDAY: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

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Rev. Melanie Adams, Pastor