

(Pastor) That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,
(Lay Leader) That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,
(People) That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,

(Pastor) That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

(Lay Leader) Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

(People) Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

(All) May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Adapted from The United Methodist Book of Worship)

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT ("HOPE") /
Mimi Luker and Family

(WHILE THE FAMILY IS LIGHTING THE CANDLE)

WORDS OF HOPE (ADAPTED FROM ISAIAH 60:2 -3) / LORETTA CUDNEY, LITURGIST

(Leader) "For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

(All) O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*ADVENT CANDLE SONG

Advent Candle Song

I II

1. Light one can - dle: Christ is com - ing,
Christ, the Hope of the world. Light one can - dle:
Christ is com - ing, Christ is com - ing soon!

WORDS and MUSIC: Sally Ahner

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

Loretta Cudney, Liturgist

(Adapted from Jeremiah 33, Luke 21)

(Liturgist) It's time to get ready.

(People) It's time to worship.

(Liturgist) It's time to get ready.

(People) It's time to be strong.

(Liturgist) It's time to get ready.

(People) It's time to love.

(Liturgist) Let's worship together,

(All) that God may strengthen our love this day. Amen!

* OPENING HYMN #196 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

All

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (THE APOSTLES' CREED)

(Pastor) Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

(All) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

(Pastor) Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

(All) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

(Pastor) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

(All) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* ("universal") church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

PRAYER RESPONSE *"Give Ear to Our Prayer, O God"* Aldersgate Chorale
by Hal H. Hopson

SCRIPTURE READING **I Thessalonians 3:9-13** Loretta Cudney,
[Increase and Abound in Love] Liturgist
(The New Testament, page 192 NRSV)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM *“Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes”* Aldersgate Chorale
by Hal H. Hopson

* GOSPEL READING **Luke 21:25-26** Loretta Cudney,
[The Coming of the Son of Man] Liturgist

Leader: This is the Gospel of Christ!

All: Glory to You, O Christ! Amen.

SERMON **“LIVING WITH HOPE”** Rev. J. T. Kim

* HYMN OF DEDICATION #213 *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”* **All**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(Pastor) Let us offer our gratitude for God's countless blessings: past, present, and future in God's eternal kingdom.

(All) Amen!

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *“Sing With Joy, Glad Voices Lift”* David Lines,
by Friedrich Hoegner Organist

* DOXOLOGY **All**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. J. T. Kim

HOLY COMMUNION (ADVENT)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(Pastor) You who have been fed with the bread of tears, find here the bread of life. You who have drunk the sorrows of life, find here the living water, springing forth with eternal grace.

(Loretta Cudney, Lay Leader) You who need to see God, find here the very presence of Christ, his life and love, ready to nourish us all.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(All) When we turn away from you or neglect your presence, O God, don't rage against us or turn away in silent wrath. When we sin and fall short of the people you would have us be, don't hide your loving presence from us. Speak to us anew, that we may hear your voice and notice your presence in our lives. Shine upon us with your grace and mercy, that we may return to you and return to love. In your mercy and grace, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

PARDON

(Pastor) Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(People) In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(All) Glory to God! Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(People) And also with you.

(Pastor) Lift up your hearts.

(People) We lift them up to the Lord.

(Pastor) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(All) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Lay Leader) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you have revealed your mighty presence to us.

(Pastor) From the beginning, you have created and are creating, forming us anew, like clay in the hands of the potter.

(Lay Leader) When we withered like leaves, and floated away from your presence, you healed and restored us.

(Pastor) From ancient times, you have created us and called us to be your people, formed in your image and shimmering with your loving presence.

(Lay Leader) And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, saying:

(All Sing)

Elise Eslinger
(after NICAEA)



Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

(Pastor) Holy are you and blessed is your holy name. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to be present among us and to reveal your loving presence to us.

(Lay Leader) Through Christ's creative love and grace, we are formed anew and revived with your grace. In covenant with you, we come—awake and alert, ready to know your presence at this holy table and in our very lives.

(Pastor) On that night before his death, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the

disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

(Lay Leader) And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts of love and grace, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as children of your covenant, in union with Christ's love for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All Sing)

Elise Eslinger



Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

COMMUNION PRAYER

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the presence of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ, revived by your grace and restored in your love.

(Lay Leader) By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your heavenly banquet.

(Pastor) Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, both now and forever more.

(All Sing)

Elise Eslinger



Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(Pastor) The loving presence of Christ, shining in your life.

(All) Amen!

COMMUNION MUSIC

"What Child is This?"

David Lines, John Zeeb

Steve Grimes

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All) Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants and witnesses to the world. Amen.

* SENDING HYMN #206 *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

All

* RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

(Pastor) Signs are all around.

(Congregation) Christ is coming soon.

(Pastor) Signs are all around.

(Congregation) Christ has come to earth.

(Pastor) Signs are all around.

(Congregation) Christmas is almost here.

(Pastor) Signs are all around.

(Congregation) Christ's love is needed now.

(Pastor) Signs are all around.

(Congregation) Calling us to love.

(Pastor) Signs are all around.

**(Congregation) Leading us forth with love. Sending us forth
in peace.**

(Pastor) Go in the name of Christ and Christmas love.

(All) Amen!

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"Go Your Way Rejoicing"* Aldersgate Chorale
by Hal H. Hopson

POSTLUDE *"Adeste Fidelis"* David Lines, Organist
by Gordon Young

* DENOTES STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

In Our Prayers:

In hospital, Elizabeth Davis

In convalescent care, Kirk Ferguson, Bertha Harris,
Rev. Bob Mayou

For health and support, Michelle Arguelles, Carole Arnold,
Lynn Ashworth, Mary Boon, Scott Bunyar, Danielle Casem,
Phyllis Chandler, Noriekim Chavez, Cheryl, Tim Clark, Denetria,
Helen Dennington, DeDe Earhart, Terry Edlin, Walt Einhorn,
Robert Flores, Aaron Gerstner, Kimberly Goforth, Ashley Beals Heath,
Josh, Barbara Kent, Luna, Judy Lamers, Gerry Marr,
Laurel McDonald, Don Nauss, Nuchols Family, Jessica Oaks,
Kay Otto, Ashish Peters, Barbara Pope, Jason Pritchard, Chandra Roberts,
Laura Robinson, Madison Salvador, Shukla Sen, Bob Schiffer,
Micheline Scoggins, Mark Spangler, Lisa Thomas, Claudia Velazquez,
Sherry Weide, Velma Wellborn, Lynette Williams, Myra Williams,
Gerry Wright, Marge Yeager, Anita Yunes

Pies for Sale Today

Please come by the patio after Worship today for a delicious apple pie made by our Youth. The cost is \$12. Thank you.



Evening With Santa - Volunteers Needed!

Please consider joining us in Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 7, to help as the children enjoy meeting Santa. We need help with the following:

- 🧑‍🍳 Setup
- 🧑‍🍳 Checking the children in and out
- 🧑‍🍳 Activities, divided into centers
- 🧑‍🍳 Snacks
- 🧑‍🍳 Clean up

Call Barbara Jo Wilson at the church office, 951-683-7831. Thank you!



UMM will not be hosting a lunch program in December so that all can attend this year's All-Church Conference at Wesley UMC on Sunday, December 9, at 1:00 pm. **We wish you a Very Merry Christmas** and will return to our 2nd Sunday program and lunch in January 2019!

Alternative Gift Fair TODAY

The Alternative Gift Fair is today after Worship from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will have music, a soup lunch, and the best holiday shopping around. We will have olive oil from Palestine, scarves and clothes from Afghani designers, bees and goats and chickens from Heifer International, hand made gifts from the United Methodist Women, baskets and ornaments from 10,000 Villages, the best gifts from the Assistance League of Riverside, plus jams and honey and soaps from the Riverside Food Co-op. The fair is organized by the Church and Society/Missions Committee. Each year it gets bigger and better.

Come join us and bring a friend to the fair!

Thank you,

Kris Lovekin



Refill the Pantry Food Drive

Church & Society/Missions will be collecting non-perishable food items during the months of November and December for the Riverside Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army collects more than household items and clothing. They also support the homeless by serving hot meals, providing sack lunches for homeless shelters and giving families in need of food boxes monthly.

After the rush of getting food to families over the holidays, our goal is to help them stock up for the New Year by providing non-perishable food items: peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, beef stew, soup, cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, etc.

Collection boxes will be in the church office and Narthex during the months of November and December. Call Lisa Laird for further information, 951-276-4490.



- December 2018** *No Handcrafters*
- 1 Setup for Alternative Gift Fair & Mini Bazaar
 - 2 First Sunday of Advent
 - 2 **Alternative Gift Fair & Mini Bazaar**
 - 7 **CWU Christmas Party**, Buffet, Salvation Army Silvercrest, 9:30 AM
 - 10 Almond / Wesleyan Circle, Marie Callender's, 11:00 am
 - 12 **Christmas Brunch** (Adult Lounge) 10:00 AM, Officer Installation
 - 18 Citrus Circle (Adult Lounge) Royal Orchid Restaurant, 9791 Magnolia, 6:00 PM
 - 25 **Christmas Day**

MINI-BAZAAR

If you missed the Bazaar on Nov. 3 or need to buy more gifts, today you have another chance. The ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR awaits you in our Fellowship Hall after church today! Non-profit groups from throughout the city and the world offer you an "alternative" to

shopping at the malls. Soup lunch is available.

This event bristles with excitement—don't miss it!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

On Friday, Dec. 7, the annual CWU Christmas Party at the Salvation Army Silvercrest Residence will start at 9:30 am with cider and coffee. You are asked to bring a gift of at least \$10 value for one of the residents. Please wrap it and mark for a man or woman and the size, if appropriate. Please bring food to share—sandwiches, salads, dessert. (There are no cooling or heating facilities.)

The program will include holiday activities. All women are invited to be a part of this festive event.

If you want to donate a gift but cannot attend you can give the gift to Lynn Ashworth by Wednesday, Dec. 5.

ALMOND-WESLEYAN CIRCLE

We will meet for a lunch out on Dec. 10 at 11:00 am at Marie Callender's on Merrill Ave.

UMW CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Our Christmas Brunch will be on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 10:00 am in the Adult Lounge. We will install the 2019 officers. It is a potluck which most have already signed up for. If you are coming and haven't signed up, bring an extra treat—cookies or holiday breads.



"Apples to Apples" Night

On Saturday, January 12, at 6:30 pm, the AGAPE group will be meeting in the Adult Lounge for a game of "Apples to Apples." Please bring a snack (appetizer or dessert) to share with the group.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for this group, please contact the church office.

The 2018-2019 Charge Conference with the Mission Area Churches (Wesley, Corona, and FUMCOR)

Date: Next Sunday,
December 9, 2018

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Wesley United Methodist
Church, 5770 Arlington Ave,
Riverside, CA 92504.

Presiding:
Rev. Melissa MacKinnon,
East District Superintendent

"Our Town" at Poly High School

Please mark your calendars to see our **Ian George** in the following performances of "Our Town" at Poly High School:

Thursday, January 10, 7:00 pm

Friday, January 11 at 3:30 pm

Friday January 11 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 12 at 2:00 pm

Saturday, January 12 at 7:00 pm

Ian will be in all performances.



**OFF Group Christmas Gathering at the Burch's
Co-hosted by John and Mary Ellen and Mimi Luker
Saturday, December 15, beginning at 5:00**

Begin your holiday season with an OFF Group Appetizer Party/Cookie Exchange!

You don't need to bring cookies to attend, but please bring an appetizer to share. If you are participating in the Cookie Exchange, let Mary Ellen know when you RSVP. Our address is 17949 Aloe Lane, Riverside, and you can call or text Mary Ellen at 951.415.7855 or email us at jsmeburch@gmail.com to let us know if you will be able to come.



Cookie Exchange



The Details:

A cookie exchange is no ordinary event! No one arrives or leaves a Cookie Exchange empty handed. For this special occasion, you must bring the following:

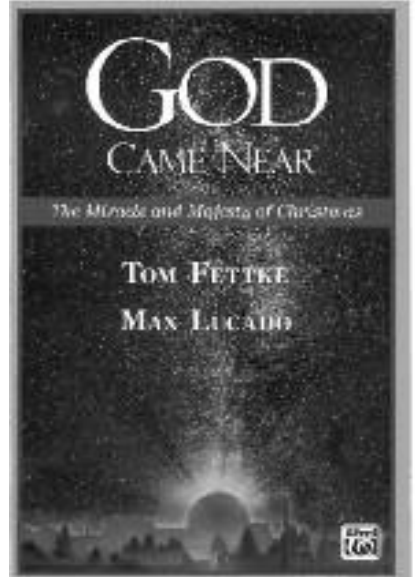
6 dozen home baked cookies (Yes, you read that correctly! This is usually a double batch of a recipe. Everyone in attendance will bring 6 dozen cookies (baked with a holiday theme in mind) and there will be a swap so that everyone leaves with a large assortment of cookies to bring home to their families. If 6 dozen is too much for you to bake, team up with someone and then each bake 3 dozen! Bring cookies that will hold their shape well, so they won't be smashed in transit. NO store bought cookies!

Containers: Containers will be provided to carry your collection of cookies home with you.

When you RSVP, please indicate what type of cookie you will be bringing. We would like to ensure that there are a wide variety of cookies baked, so have more than one idea for the cookie you would like to bake in case someone has already chosen your first idea.

On **December 9** during Sunday morning Worship, the Aldersgate Chorale will sing a new cantata. In the cantata "**God Came Near,**" you will travel back in time when Christ, the Son of God, became man. Based on Christmas writings by author Max Lucado, this new cantata from arranger/composer Tom Fettke features a blend of new songs, classic texts, and beloved carols. The result is a magnificent and unforgettable celebration of the Incarnation. It all happened in a moment—a most remarkable moment—when "God Came Near."

—*Yvonne Flagg, Aldersgate Chorale Director*



Help for Fire Victims

If you would like to help the victims of the recent California fires, the easiest way is through the UMCOR website, www.umcor.org and click on Donate, Cal-Pac Disaster Response Fund (Cal-Pac Advance #24050).

Otherwise, checks can be made out to FUMCOR with the Advance # in the memo line, and we will forward funds to UMCOR.

Thank you.

The ministers of First United Methodist Church of Riverside are its members. Assisting them are Bishop Grant J. Hagiya; District Superintendent Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon, and the church staff: Sr. Pastor, Rev. J. T. Kim; Rev. Roy Riggs, Retired Minister; Office Manager, Becky Ruiz; Secretary, Stephanie Chandler; Director of Children's & Women's Ministries, Barbara Jo Wilson; Aldersgate Director, Yvonne Flagg; Organist, David Lines; Bell Choirs Director, Gayla Lonsbery; Youth/Young Adult Director, Steve Grimes; Lay Leader, Loretta Cudney; Preschool Director, Karen Wilson.

YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 2

9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.

5:00 pm—Youth and Young Adults Cookie Baking in Fellowship Hall Kitchen.

Sunday, December 9

9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.

5:00 pm—**Christmas Caroling for All.** Meet in Parking Lot between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

Sunday, December 16

9:15 am—Youth Sunday School in the Youth Center.

5:30 pm—Meet in Fellowship Hall for costume.

6:30 & 7:00 pm—Live Nativity on Front Lawn

Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to First Riverside United Methodist Church when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1641437.

**This holiday, make a
difference while you shop**

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at
smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.
amazonsmile



This Week at FUMCOR

Sunday, December 2

- 8:45 am Beginning Bells
—Mary's Kitchen
- 8:45 am Adult Sunday School
—Adult Lounge
- 9:15 am Youth Sunday School
—Youth Center
- 9:30 am Children's Chimes
—Youth Center
- 10:00 am Worship/Communion/
1st Sunday of Advent/
10:00 am Children's Program
Rehearsal—Club Ark
- 11:00 am Youth Pies for Sale—Patio
- 11:00 am Alternative Gift Fair
—Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 pm Youth/Young Adult
Cookie Baking
—Fellowship Hall Kitchen

Monday, December 3

- 7:00 pm Trustees—Mary's Kitchen
- 7:00 pm Worship Committee
—Adult Lounge

Tuesday, December 4

- 10:00 am Bible Study—Mary's Kitchen
- 7:00 pm Bells—Mary's Kitchen

Wednesday, December 5

- 6:00 pm Sit 'N Sew Quilters
—Mary's Kitchen
- 7:00 pm Advent Study #2
—Adult Lounge

Thursday, December 6

- 7:00 pm Aldersgate Chorale
—Music Room/Sanctuary

Friday, December 7

- 5:30 pm Evening with Santa
—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 9

- 8:45 am Beginning Bells
—Mary's Kitchen
- 8:45 am Adult Sunday School
—Adult Lounge
- 9:15 am Youth Sunday School
—Youth Center
- 9:30 am Children's Chimes
—Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Worship/Aldersgate
Chorale Cantata &
Children's Chimes
- 11:15 pm Children's Program
Rehearsal—Sanctuary
- 1:00 pm Charge Conference
—Wesley UMC
- 5:00 pm All-Church Caroling
—Meet in Parking Lot



Dedications are being taken now for the poinsettias to grace our sanctuary this Christmas season. Please complete this form and return it to the church office before Friday, December 7.

Cost of a poinsettia plant is \$9.50. Checks should be made out to First United Methodist Church (or FUMCOR) and marked "Poinsettia".

Donors may pick up their plants after the Christmas Eve worship service.



Dedicated by: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

I would like to reserve _____ poinsettia plant(s) at \$9.50 each. I enclose my check, or cash, for \$_____.