

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Our Mission

*Tipping the world toward love
by following the Way of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of ourselves and the world*

First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, December 26, 2021, 10 am

*[Our **in-person Sunday worship** in the Sanctuary **requires masks for all.**

Please continue to practice 6 feet physical distancing whenever possible.]

We welcome all visitors today! Thank you for being here and gracing us with your presence. Please fill out the **Visitation Card** found in the pew and either place it in the offering plate or deposit into the *Suggestion Box* in the narthex nave.

Children are invited to enjoy the resources in the **Children Learning Center** located at the back of the sanctuary during worship. Children are welcome to check out books and activity items to take home by signing the simple "*Check-out Sheet*" on clipboard there.

Words of Meditation

"Wisely enough, God does not let us skip ahead in the story of our lives; but rather leads us page by page to its understandable conclusion in Him. And so, as each of us faces an uncertain future, we can trust in God's promise as expressed by Jeremiah: "For I know the plans I have for you," saith the Lord, "They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you hope and a future."

- Pann Baltz

"We are God's plan for changing the world...
We are not just passive recipients of God's love and grace."

- Rev. Adam Hamilton

(*Please stand if you are able)

Prelude

Joy to the World
Arr. J. Block

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church

***Greetings** (Wave to your neighbors with Christmas greetings, "**Merry Christmas!**)

Leader: Come! Come and be present in this place. Come bring your body, mind, and spirit. Know that this gathering is a gift where God's presence can meet you, where all long for moments of grace. Remember that Christ promised to be present whenever we are gathered in His name. Amen

***Gathering Hymn**

O Come All Ye Faithful

#293 vs. 1, 3, 6

***Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

O Almighty God, by the birth of your holy Child
Jesus, you gave us a great light,
to dawn in your darkness.
Grant that in His light we may see light.
Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love for all people,
so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us,
and that we may have the ever-brightening hope of everlasting life.
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children's Time

Carmelita Abenoja

Special Music

Children & Youth Piano Recital
Elizabeth R., Isaiah G., Allyson S., & Febe A.

Prayers of the People

- a. Sharing of Joys & Concerns (Please raise your hand & mic will be given to you)
- b. Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer/Padre Nuestro (You are invited to pray in the language of your choice)

- a. 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.

Response to Our Prayers

On Eagle's Wings

#143

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.

Hebrew Reading

Genesis 1: 1-5

***Gospel Readings**

John 1: 1-5 & John 8:12

Matthew 5:14-16

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Message

"Brighten the Corner Where You Are"

Carmelita Abenoja

Carmelita Abenoja recalls the last time she preached at our church was 23 years ago. So here is an opportunity to hear her rare Message "***Brighten the Corner Where You Are***" this Sunday after 23 years of more life experience and gleaning wisdom from it. She retired 6 years ago from a high-pressured job as the Administrative Assistant at the California Highway Patrol. She recalls the volume of paper work that she dealt with every day was staggering.

In her own words:

I was a Methodist even before I was born. From my home church in the Philippines, I was nurtured and given all opportunities to be involved and participate in church work and get elected to district and conference positions in the UM Youth organization while finishing a degree at a church-related school, Wesleyan University-Philippines. Taught college briefly but left the academe for the opportunity to travel as a Field Executive for the Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

The wanderlust didn't last long. Church related work beacons me when I was asked to work with an American missionary, head of the Board of Missions at the United Methodist Headquarters in Manila. I was given the privilege working in a place where three Bishops held offices during their term in office. (Not very many had that honor.)

While working there I took classes at the Union Theological Seminary hoping to finish a sacred music degree. But marriage & family was foremost. I actively involved in the local church where we resided until my family and I immigrated to US and became members of the Freedom UMC. I became involved in the church. "Wearing many hats" and volunteering as organist and music director, in between my government job until the church merged with Watsonville First UMC. And the rest is history.

Hymn *Jesus Above All Names* #2071 (2X)

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Let us respond to this word of grace and hope by the giving of our tithes and offerings, which support the varied ministries of the Watsonville First United Methodist Church, mission at home and throughout the world.

Offertory *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Marina Thomas
Arr. H. Simeone

Presentation of Offering

***Doxology** Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer #211 (vs. 6)
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of light,
and death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come
to thee, O Israel

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

We come before you, O Lord, dedicating our gifts and our lives in your service. In gratefulness for calling us as your own, we offer you our thanks and praise. Receive our pledges and the gifts of your hands and use them to bring light to the darkness and hope to places of despair, through your Son, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn** *Joy to the World* #246 vs. 1, 2, 4

***Responsive Benediction**

Leader: May this joy be yours as you hail Jesus Christ,
your Messiah, your King.

People: **May you taste of the hope and mercy he
offers as you receive him as your Savior.**

Leader: May you feel his peace as you accept
that he is your Emmanuel.

**People: May you allow his light to dwell in you
and be reflected through you.**

Leader: May he be your Lord, his love and light,
guiding and directing your path now and always.

People: And also with you.

All: Shalom and Amen.

Postlude *Festive Procession* Marina Thomas
P. Bryan

*We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of Peet's Coffee,
refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following worship.*

**Please sign up for your personalized nametag necklace from Tahja & the Crew.*

Refreshments: Hospitality Team

Liturgists: Tahja Martinez, Febe Avitua

Ushers/Greeters: Marieta Flores

Tech Team: Antonio Pantaleon, Lucila Pantaleon, Kaya Lourenco

Nursery Attendants: Julissa Solis, Tatyana Martinez

*Pastor John will return to office on Jan. 4th.

Calendar for the Week

Sun., Dec. 26	10:00 am	Last Sunday of the Year Guest Preacher: Carmelita Abenoja Children & Youth Piano Recital
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
Tue., Dec. 28 – Fri., Dec 31		OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
Sat., Jan. 1		Happy New Year!
Sun., Jan. 2	10:00 am	First Sunday of Epiphany Guest Preacher: Alice Ann Glenn
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall

Church Website: watsonville1stumc.org

Email: office@watsonville1stumc.org | Phone: (831) 724-4434

Office Hours: Tue-Thu 9 am – 5 pm, Fri 9 am – 12 pm (Closed for lunch 12-1 pm)

Carmelita Abenoja, Lay Preacher

Rev. John Juno Song, Pastor

Mike Locke-Paddon, Music Director

Marina Thomas, Pianist

Antonio Pantaleon, Media Director

Bob Culbertson, Tahja Martinez, Lay Leaders

Baptism, Membership, Wedding, Funeral, and Pastoral Counseling are available