

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2023, 10 am

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* back in the narthex.

This Sunday is ***Sunday School with Joan!***

First, children will be in worship. Following the Special Music, the teacher, Joan Culbertson, will lead our children to the Nursery Room.

Words of Meditation

A Prayer of Hungry Beggar

by Clarissa Pinkola Estés from *The Faithful Gardener: A Wise Tale About That Which Can Never Die*

Refuse to fall down

If you cannot refuse to fall down,
refuse to stay down.

If you cannot refuse to stay down,
lift your heart toward heaven,
and like a hungry beggar,
ask that it be filled.

You may be pushed down.
You may be kept from rising.
But no one can keep you from lifting your heart
toward heaven
only you.

It is in the middle of misery
that so much becomes clear.
The one who says nothing good came of this,
is not yet listening.

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light (The flame symbolizes Christ’s light in the world.)

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Rev. John Song

***Advent Blessings** (Wave to your neighbors and exchange greetings of...
“***Advent blessings be with you. And also with you.***”)

“Centering Breath

***Advent Candle Song**

Light the Advent Candle

FWS #2090 (vs. 2)

Lighting the Second Advent Candle of Mary

The Flores Families

***Call to Worship**

Maira & Allyson Sandoval West

Leader: When an angel of the Lord appeared to Mary,
Mary said YES, even in the midst of the unknown.

**People: When an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph,
Joseph said YES, even in the midst of uncertainty.**

Leader: When the host of angels of the Lord suddenly appeared to shepherds tending
flocks by night, they said YES, even in the midst of fear.

**People: When we consider the origins of our Christian faith
in the mist of mystery and glory, we say YES, to God.**

Leader: When we celebrate the birth of Christ,
we proclaim God is with us, Emmanuel.

All: Come! Let us worship.

***Gathering Song**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#234 (vs. 1, 3-5)

Children's Time

"A Christmas Story"

Pastor John

***Gospel Readings**

Luke 1: 46-55

Magnificat (Latin for "My Soul") or ***The Song of Mary***

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of Persistent Widow and the Unjust Judge

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and

night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Choir Anthem

Prepare For The Coming of The Lord

Music by Lloyd Larson, Words based on Isaiah 40:3-4 and Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722)

*Children may now leave for Sunday School
with the teacher, Joan Culbertson, to the Nursery room.*

Message

The Magnificat, the Song of Mary
Part 2) "A Prayer of Hungry Beggar"

Rev. John Song

Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

#206

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

The Holly and the Ivy

Marina Thomas

Presentation of Offering

***Doxology**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#211 (v. 2)

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall
come to thee, O Israel.

***Offertory Prayer (In unison)**

Accept these gifts from our hearts, O God, and our lives in the ministry of love and peace, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***Recessional Song**

Prepare the Way of the Lord

#207 (3X)

***Benediction**

*This ends Live Streaming]

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)

Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Marina Thomas

*We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of quality coffee,
refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following worship.*

Today's refreshments: Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

Worship Leaders

Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgists	Maira & Allyson Sandoval West
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis
Coffee Hour	Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

Upcoming Advent/Christmas Services @ 10 am

December 17	Third Sunday of Advent / Sunday School with Joan
December 24	Family Christmas Celebration
	5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Calendar for the Week

Sun., Dec. 10	10:00 am	Second Sun. of Advent/ Sunday School with Joan
	11:15 am	Marieta Flores Birthday Luncheon, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wed., Dec. 13	4:30 pm	Wed. Bible Study , St. Stephen's room
Thu., Dec. 14	12:00 pm	UMW Christmas Party , Marieta Flores Residence
Fri., Dec. 15	12:00 pm	Staff X-Mas Luncheon
Sat., Dec. 16	10:30 am	Church Volunteer X-Mas Brunch
Sun., Dec. 17	10:00 am	Third Sun. of Advent/ Sunday School with Joan
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	12:00 pm	Community Garden X-Mas Potluck, Social Hall

Opportunities!

Weekly Wed. Bible Study!

Every Wed. from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm, St. Stephen's room

Sponsor a Chicken or Poncho for the Needy

Make your donation out to the church labeled "*Winter Feeding Program*"
\$5 per chicken or \$1 per poncho. Thank you!

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)

229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076