

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 2024, 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.

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.

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude *Joy to the World* Marina Thomas

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

Welcome & the Life of the Church Bob Culbertson

***Christmas Greetings:** Wave to your neighbors and exchange greetings of...

Merry Christmas (English)

Feliz Navidad (Spanish)

Maligayang Pasko (Tagalog)

***Centering Breath** Marieta Flores

***Call to Worship** Febe Avitua

Leader: Christ is born, give Him glory!

People: **Come and worship, worship Christ
the newborn King.**

Leader: Christ is the light of the world;
In Him, we see things as they are;
God as He is, His grace offering is
forgiveness, and the new life, ourselves
as we are in need of Him; and life
as it was meant to be.

People: **We come to receive the gift of God’s love
in Christ and offer Him the gift of ourselves.**

All: **O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

***Gathering Song** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* #220 (vs 1-3)

Christmas Story according to the Gospel of Matthew

Gospel Readings **Matthew 1:18-25**
Joseph’s Moral Struggle

up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

#238

Matthew 2:13-15

The Return from Egypt

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth.

Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

#218

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

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Marina Thomas

Presentation of Offering

***Doxology**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

#240 (v. 3)

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

***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**

Bob Culbertson

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, Leading, guiding and directing your path now and always.

People: And also with you.

All: Shalom and Amen.

[*This ends Live Streaming]

Prayers of the People

Bob Culbertson

- 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

Angels We Have Heard on High

Marina Thomas

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

Worship Leaders

Worship Leader	Bob Culbertson
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgist	Febe Avitua
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins, Peter Tele
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis
Coffee Hour	Marieta Flores, Tatyana Martinez

*Pastor John is away on vacation and will return to office on Jan. 2.

Calendar for the Week

Sun., Dec. 29	10:00 am	First Sunday after Christmas Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
Dec. 31 – Jan. 1		OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
Thur., Jan. 2	9:00 am	OFFICE REOPENS
Sun., Jan. 5	10:00 am	Epiphany Sunday with Holy Communion
		Appearance of the Three Kings
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall

Church Website: watsonville1stumc.org

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