

Las Posadas

Service of Shelter for the Holy Family

Sunday, December 24, 2017

7:00pm Candlelight Service

In the Hispanic tradition of Latin American countries, especially in Mexico, one of the oldest celebrations is Las Posadas. It was created by the Augustinian Father Diego De Soria about 1587 to introduce Christianity to the NEW World, and now it is revised by United Methodists Carlos Avendano, Raquel M. Martinez, and Roberto Escamilla.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Will White

*Hymn

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

#221 (UMH)

Entrance of Joseph and Mary
Lauren and Mason Clark

Joseph and Mary stand outside the sanctuary, accompanied by youths and children. One member of the group outside knocks on the first door and says:

Mary: Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. (Revelation 3:20)

Leader: Who will give lodging to these pilgrims who are weary of traveling the roads?

Joseph: We have come exhausted from Nazareth. I'm a carpenter, by the name of Joseph. In the name of the heavens, I beg you for lodging, my beloved wife can no longer travel.

Anthem

"Pidiendo Posada"

Chancel Choir

Singing

Second door knocking

Choir, Mary & Joseph: In the name of God, we beg: will you let us enter? We are tired and we are cold. May we please have shelter?

Congregation: You look dirty and you smell. Will you please keep moving? For your kind there is no place, for our inn is decent.

Choir, Mary & Joseph: It is not by our own choice, that today we travel. But the emperor has said, that all must be counted.

Congregation: For your reasons we care not, every room is taken. Can't you see the place is full? You are bad for business!



Responsive Reading

Third door knocking

Leader: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. (John 1:10, 12)

Choir: Who are the children of God?

All: All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. (Romans 8:14)

Choir: To what does the Spirit of God guide us?

All: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Matthew 22:37, 39) and (Galatians 5:22-23a)

Choir: How do we know we love the Lord and have faith?

Congregation: What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2:14-17)

Mary & Joseph: Will the child be born tonight out on a street corner? Can't you find a place for him? Do you have no pity?

*Hymn "Away in a Manger" #217 (UMH)

Singing

Knocking at the Manger

All Sing: Oh, my goodness, do come in. You can use the manger. For the rooms that we do have are for a rich trav'ler. Such a babe in such a place, can he be the savior? Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger. Such a babe in such a place, can he be the savior? Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Mary places Jesus in the Manger. Joseph and Mary are seated.

Praying (Unison)

All: God all-powerful, grant that we may rid ourselves of the works of darkness, and that we may invest ourselves with the weapons of light in this life to which your Son, Jesus Christ, with great humility came to visit us; so that in the final day, when he returns in majestic glory to judge the living and the dead, we shall rise to eternal life through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever, Amen.

*Reading "Luke 2:1-20" Worship Leader

Anthem "Run, Run, Shepherds" Chancel Choir

Sermon:

“Make Room”

Rev. Will White

Lighting the Advent Wreath (*Light all five*)

Lauren and Mason Clark

Reader 1: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:2-7)*

Reader 2: *How perfect it is that God would send a child to lead us. The voice of God was heard in the cries of a baby, and that sound reminds us that God cared for us enough to be with us, to save us from the powers of death and destruction, and end our journey in darkness. We light this candle knowing that Jesus is born, and Love has come to earth.*

(lighting of all five candles)

Reader 1: *And so we offer this mysterious prayer:*

ALL: Lord Jesus, quickly come.

Offering *Candles and LED Candles will be passed out at this time.*

*Doxology **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.**

*All Praying **Visit your family, O God.
Give us love, joy and your peace.
Purify our thoughts, words, and deeds, so that when Jesus Christ comes,
He will find a place prepared for his coming.
O heavenly Father,
As we prepare ourselves for the coming of your Son, fill our hearts and lives with praise.
Grant that we may be just and merciful, ready to help in the needs of our neighbor and conscious of your great
love for all the world.**

Fill the Christian family with your spiritual gifts of forgiveness, patience, mutual love, and unending joy.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Hymn

"Silent Night"

#239 (UMH)

*Dismissal with Blessing

All are invited to join in the Overflow Room for cookies and drinks. Children will also be invited to break a piñata at this time.

TO OUR VISITORS

Thank you for worshipping with us tonight! We hope to see you again! Our regularly scheduled worship services are at 8:30 and 11:00am on Sunday mornings. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:45am. Children's Church is provided at each service. We have coffee fellowship each Sunday in the Overflow Room after each worship service. If you would like to learn more about our church, please consider coming to FUMC 101 on January 7th.

May God Bless You Richly!

Rev. Will White, Lead Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUMC 101 WILL BE January 7, 14, 21 in the Overflow Room between the services. Have you ever wondered what it means to be a follower of Jesus? What does it mean to be a part of a church? A member? Come explore the answers to these questions with Rev. White during this three part series.

BLOOD DRIVE on Monday, January 8th from 1:30-7:30pm at the Red Cross Building in Sunny Side on Highway 522 North, just outside of town. If you are able to donate, please contact Tim Anderson at (540) 247-8849 to schedule your appointment.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL has designated UMCOR, UMVIM and WATTS as the recipients of the Christmas special offerings, in amounts to be established after (1) collection of said offerings, and (2) re-evaluation of the needs of said recipients. Use your "Christmas" envelopes to make these offerings.

OUR WATTS (Winter Area Temporary Thermal Shelter) week is **Saturday, Feb. 3 - Feb. 10**. Please check your calendar for your availability and let **Jill Johnson (540) 247-2990** know when you'd like to volunteer.

JANUARY WORSHIP

January 1 New Year's Day

Revelation 21:1-6, "All Things New"

Epiphany Series: "Rise Up! God is Speaking"

January 7, Epiphany Sunday [White]

Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12, "The Magi's Visit" (God is Speaking)

January 14, [Green]

1 Samuel 3:1-10 & John 1:43-51, "Many Will Be Called" (Listen)

January 21, [Green]

Jonah 3:1-5 and Mark 1:14-20, "Going Public (Move)"

January 28, [Green]

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 and Luke 4:21-30, "Dealing with Demons" (Answer)