Sacrament of Holy Communion The Great Thanksgiving
(*Sung Liturgy for Sanctus, Benedictus, Memorial Acclamation and Great Amen will be a musical call and response.)*

The Breaking of the Bread and the Giving of the Cup
(You are invited to come by the center aisle to receive the bread and cup by being given a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. If you would like to be anointed for healing come to the rail after receiving the Sacrament.)

The Church at Prayer

Prayer Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH 230
Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

*Sending Hymn "Cold December Flies Away" UMH 233

*Benediction 1 Thessalonians 3: 11-13

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen

Postlude "Cold December Flies Away" setting by David Schack

The Bible translation used is The New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

** indicates standing as you are able*

OUR THANKS TO all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for this church and God's kingdom.
Sound Board: Dave Howard & Micheal Blueford
Ushers: 9 am: Ken Wade, Sharon Leister, Andrea Stanley
11 am: Ken Wade, Jerry Mackey, Karen Mackey
Hospitality: Sharon Leister, Betty Peters, Dorothy Carlisle,
Tech Booth: Kurt Thornton
Bass Player: Dale Slayton
Trombone Player: Kim Tuck
Video Image Technician: Micheal Blueford

First United Methodist Church

The City Center Church

111 East Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49014
www.firstumcbc.org

December 2, 2018

The vision of First United Methodist Church is to be a Vibrant, Diverse, Christ-Centered People.

Order of Worship to the Glory of God
First Sunday in Advent
11:00 am

"Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today. Love the Rose is on the way" Eleanor Farjeon

Prelude "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" setting by Michael Burkhardt
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" setting by Wilber Held

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Advent Alleluia" arranged by Keith Christopher

*Call to Worship

Leader All the earth is waiting, expectant!
People **All the earth is watching, hopeful!**
Leader Every rock and rill is humming!
People **With the Word, the Lord is coming!**

*Carol "People Look East" UMH 202

Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, who grounds us in hope, plant us according to your grace, in the furrows of the world, like seed in bare ground, and give us patience to await the blooming of your will on earth. Warm us by your grace and with your Holy Spirit grow us into the flower of your body, your church, through Jesus Christ, the one who was and is, and is to come. Amen.

The Lesson Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Advent Wreath Song "While We Are Waiting"

1. While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come.

Chorus: Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.

2. With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come;

3. Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath Scott, Jackie and Callum MacCannell

Response: **We light this candle for Hope, because we know you are the hope of all the world. Light your hope within our hearts that as we share your love, others may find the hope your have given us to share. Amen.**

Anthem "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" Holst/Bertalot

Good News for Young Hearts *Anne Stagner*

*Gospel Acclamation "Lo How a Rose E're Blooming" vs.1 UMH 216

*The Gospel Luke 21: 25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of our Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*Gospel Acclamation "Lo How a Rose E're Blooming" vs. 3 UMH 216

A Sermon "Planted in Hope" *Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

The Offering

Offertory "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People" Genevian Psalte

*Doxology "Of the Fathers Love Begotten" vs. 1& 3 UMH 184

* Prayer of Dedication

You, who are our hope, receive our gifts that the hope we know in you may be known in the lives of others, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Sharing of the Peace of Christ