

10:00 a.m. Service

4th Sunday of Advent | December 24, 2023

Gathering for Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Liturgy & Lighting

The McAda Family

Reader: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader : We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "only" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. **Amen.**

Light the four outer candles of the Advent wreath.

***Hymn of Praise** 'Good Christian Friends Rejoice' UMH 224

***A Responsive Reading** The Canticle of Mary UMH 199

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Christine Matthews

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Children's Disciple Moment

Sharon Graves

The PrayerGround Table is for children 6 and younger to use during the sermon. Parents should sit near the table to assist.

Anthem

'Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine'

Andrew Bryant, soloist

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Lisanne Cisson

*Song of Preparation

'Star-Child'

TFWS 2095

Message

It Isn't About What Mary Knew Anyway Rev. Christine Matthews

Responding to God's Word

*The Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

UMH 881

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic ** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Offertory

'Christmas Lullaby'

Kimilee Bryant

Doxology

UMH 94

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ as part of this congregation, please see Pastor Brian or Pastor Christine after the service. They would love to point you to some discipleship opportunities and ways to serve Christ here at TRUMC.

Going Forth to Serve God's World

*Hymn of Sending

'There's a Song in the Air'

UMH 249

Sending Forth

Stewardship & Attendance Report

One Fund Monthly Goal 2023	\$47,808	Date	Online	In-Person	Sunday School
One Fund Actual MTD	\$8,477	12.3	52	252	n/a
Deposits week ended	\$8,447	12.10	TBD	218	n/a
Building Project Fund as of October	\$1,361,038	12.17	TBD	TBD	n/a

Ways to Give:

- Scan the QR Code and fill out the form
- Online at trmethodist.net
- Text-to-Give: Text the amount you wish to give to (833) 948-2135 and continue with steps.



YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

The office will be closed the last week in December. Donations can be mailed to the church office. In order to be included in your 2023 contribution statement, it has to be postmarked in 2023.

Prayer Concerns

HOMEBOUND

George Adamson, James White, Dee Hughes, Patrick O'Dell, Reggy O'Dell, Frances Lockaby, Barbara Floyd, Martha Foster, Mary Greene, Fred Dyal

TRUMC

Myra Robitalle
Martha Foster

FRIENDS OF TRUMC

Lorretta Sigenow
Boinne Hovda

OTHER REQUESTS

Israel & Gaza

Submit a prayer request to our Prayer Team: prayer@trmethodist.net

Connect with TRUMC

Worshiping here for the first time?

Stop by one of our Hospitality Stations on your way out of the sanctuary for a welcome bag and a greeting from one of our Hospitality Team members. Or scan the QR code and fill out our contact form. We'd love to hear from you!

Follow us on Social Media!

  @TRMethodist

Digital Connect Card



Upcoming Events & Announcements



CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 3PM & 5PM

Christmas Eve Offering

Every year on Christmas Eve, an offering is collected that supports two local organizations that our congregation directly volunteers with and supports.

The Clubhouse Gang: After school ministry that mentors and tutors children in the City View neighborhood.

Meals on Wheels: Delivers meals and enhances the quality of life for homebound individuals.

Donations are also accepted through our website.



Trail Guide

Sunday: December 24, 2023

Message: It Isn't About What Mary Knew Anyway

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

A Virgin Conceives

26-28 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

Good morning!
You're beautiful with God's beauty,
Beautiful inside and out!
God be with you.

29-33 She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great,

be called 'Son of the Highest.'
The Lord God will give him
the throne of his father David;
He will rule Jacob's house forever—
no end, ever, to his kingdom."

34 Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."
35 The angel answered,

The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
the power of the Highest hover over you;
Therefore, the child you bring to birth
will be called Holy, Son of God.

36-38 "And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

And Mary said,
Yes, I see it all now:
I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve.
Let it be with me
just as you say.
Then the angel left her.

Travelers Rest United Methodist Church

The Church on the Trail

Walking with Christ, Serving God, Changing Lives.

December 24, 2023 | 4th Sunday of Advent



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