

**FIRST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**  
**AT 10:30 a.m.**

**December 25, 2022**

**Christmas Day**

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your journey of faith,  
you are welcome at First Community UMC.*

*\* As an inclusive community, we invite you to sing & confess your faith in the language that you feel comfortable.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- If you are viewing the service via **Facebook**, please say “hello” and comment, so we may include you with our attendance. If you have joys or concerns, please type them in the comments, so we may include you in our “Sharing of Joys and Concerns & Pastoral Prayer.”
- If you are attending our service **in the Sanctuary** today, *please sign the attendance log* located at the rear of the sanctuary if you have not already done so.
- **Today...**
  - Following the service, we invite those attending in-person to stay for **Coffee Hour**.
  - The coat rack is available in fellowship hall. You may want to keep your coat on when in the sanctuary. Please hang your coat on the rack when you join us for coffee hour.
  - If you would like to give to the church, you can make a check payable to First Community United Methodist Church and in the Memo note the designation or you can use Zelle to [treasurer@firstcommunitymedford.org](mailto:treasurer@firstcommunitymedford.org) and add a memo as to the designation.
- **Upcoming meetings and events include...**
- **Local Events...**
- Where noted \* in the service, please stand as you are able.

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Cristian De La Rosa  
Hours: Sunday 9:00am-10:30am  
Monday 10:00am-1:00pm  
Friday 10:00am-1:00pm  
Options to Meet: in Church Parlor, by phone or via Zoom  
Cell: 540-550-9251  
Email: [pastor@firstcommunitymedford.org](mailto:pastor@firstcommunitymedford.org)  
To set up a meeting: [calendly.com/cdlrosa](https://calendly.com/cdlrosa)

Music Director: Luci Rexroad

Church Office: Susan Tingdahl  
Office: 781-396-5436  
Hours: Monday 7:30am - 11:30am  
Thursday 7:30am - 2:30pm  
Friday 7:30am - 11:3am  
Email: [office@firstcommunitymedford.org](mailto:office@firstcommunitymedford.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstcommunityumc>  
Website: [www.FirstCommunityMedford.org](http://www.FirstCommunityMedford.org)

You may submit church-related announcements to [office@firstcommunitymedford.org](mailto:office@firstcommunitymedford.org) by 5pm Wednesday.

**During the week ahead, please pray for these friends:**

December 25 – Matthew Laskey & Geoffrey Laskey  
December 26 – Lauren Laskey & Richard Laskey  
December 27 – Paulo Llanco & Nataly Romero  
December 28 – Charlotte Luscombe & Frank Cassetteri  
December 29 – Donna & Joe Maguire  
December 30 – Bill Mason & Billy Mason  
December 31 - Sheila McCleery

**Our Worship Service**

Worship Leader: Stephanie Finley  
Children’s Education Intern: Sandra Barrios  
Pastoral Intern: Paulo Llanco  
Pianist: Luci Rexroad  
Tech Support: Felix Jibrin

*Thank you for joining us. Please use these quiet moments  
to center yourself and prepare for worship...*

*\*Where noted, please stand as you are able.*

**BELL RINGING & CANDLE LIGHTING**

*Bell Ringer & Acolyte*

**PRELUDE**

“Still, Still, Still”

-Traditional Austrian Carol

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stephanie Finley*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 98 - UMH 818

*Stephanie Finley*

**\* HYMN *UMH 234***

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

WORDS: John Wade, ca. 1743

MUSIC: ADESTE FIDELES, ca. 1743

*Verses 1-3*

*Hymn Leaders*

**COMMUNAL PRAYER** (*in unison*)

Loving God,  
help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.  
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/12/prayer-for-christmas.html>.*

**READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE:**

Isaiah 52:7-10

*Stephanie Finley*

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

“Love Has Come”<sup>1</sup>

WORDS: Ken Bible, 1996

MUSIC: BRING A TORCH,  
Traditional French

**\* READING FROM THE GOSPELS:**

John 1:1-14

*Pastor De La Rosa*

For the word of God in scripture,  
for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us,  
**thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

The Word became flesh dwelling among us

*Pastor De La Rosa*

**CAROL MEDLEY**

**UMH 249**

“There’s a Song in the Air” *Verses 1, 2 & 4*

**UMH 221**

“In the Bleak Midwinter” *Verses 1 & 4*

**UMH 217**

“Away in a Manger” *Verses 1 & 2*

**UMH 230**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” *Verses 1 & 2*

**UMH 221**

“Love Came Down at Christmas” *Verses 1 & 3*

*Hymn Leaders*

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS & PASTORAL PRAYER**

*Pastor De La Rosa*

**LORD’S PRAYER**

*Pastor De La Rosa*

Our Father [God/Creator], who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom [kin-dom], 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 [kin-dom],  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*Stephanie Finley*

Great God, our Redeemer, we sing your praises. Your glorious love shines in the face of Jesus, born a babe in this dark world. We marvel that he generously humbled himself to bring salvation. How precious is your gift of love! Let the light in our sanctuary and our songs of praise spill through the windows to neighbors dwelling in darkness. May our gifts and offerings reflect the light of Christ and, as beacons in the night, draw people far and near closer to you. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen. **(Luke 2:1-20)**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**\* DOXOLOGY UMH 95**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Pastor De La Rosa*

\* **HYMN *UMH* 246** “Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come!”

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719  
MUSIC: ANTIOCH,  
arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741,  
by Lowell Mason, 1848  
*Hymn Leaders*

**BENEDICTION**

*Pastor De La Rosa*

*Please remain seated for reflection until the conclusion of the Postlude.*

**POSTLUDE &  
PERMISSION TO  
PODCAST/STREAM  
MESSAGE**

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

-Traditional French carol

*If you have not signed the attendance log located at the back of the sanctuary, please do so now.*

*As we continue to follow COVID protocols, you will find our offering plate  
on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

*If you are attending in-person, we invite you to join us for coffee hour.*

*Please exit through the middle, front door of the church  
as we are no longer using the door under the bell tower for exiting.*

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