

SIGNS AND STORIES



**505 N. Redington St.
(559) 584-4075**

**office@fumchanford.org
www.fumchanford.org**

**Pastor: Rev. Pastor Pablo R. Vargas
Music Director: Cavan O'Neill**

We Offer Ourselves in Worship
December 14, 2025
Lay Worship Leader- Peggy Gregory

Words Of Welcome

Announcements

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Responsive Call to Worship

Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Opening Prayer

"O Come O Come Emmanuel" (verse 1,2,3)

Praise Team

Lighting of the Candle Reading & Lighting of the Candle of Joy - - Galamgam Family

First Reader (Gabriel): In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).

Second Reader (Maricel): We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together. **(the candle of Joy is lit)**

“Goodness of God”

Praise Team

Sharing of The Peace: *We greet those around us with a sign of peace (handshakes or hugs) and words like "The peace of the Lord be with you"*

Pastoral Welcome & Prayer

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

UMH-230

Scripture Reading- Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me. As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. ¹¹“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Leader: This is the Word of our Lord.
(Children are dismissed to “Godly Play”)

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: “Looking for Christ-mas?”

-Rev. Pastor Pablo R. Vargas:

Advent Devotional for this week:

- 1) What is your understanding of Joy? Is Joy passive or active?
- 2) What does Joy look like in your context? How does your culture (dominant American culture, or a culture that you are more familiar with i.e. Filipino, Latino, African, etc.) shape hope?
- 3) Can you think of your own stories of Joy? Would you be open to sharing those stories
- 4) What are the signs of Joy in your life now? In your church? In your community?

“Away in a Manger”

UMH-217

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS & SERVICE (Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness)

*We commit our time, talent, treasure, willingness to serve and gift of witness out into the world as we bring our offerings. *Doxology*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes—to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

UMH-251

Benediction

Stay Afterwards for 2nd Sunday Lunch