

The Mission Candle shines today in honor of Margaret Kantz, who turns 95 years old on December 23, 2019. From Mary Ruth Circle.

The Mission Candle shines today in honor of Ray and Dorothy Reppert's 73rd Wedding Anniversary on December 20, 2019. From Sandy Bradley.

Scripture and Prayer for The Week

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:7.

God of all times and places, when we reach a moment where there seems to be no room for us, remind us of Mary and the birth of the baby Jesus. The one for whom there was no room makes room for us, here and now, everywhere and always. Remind us. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

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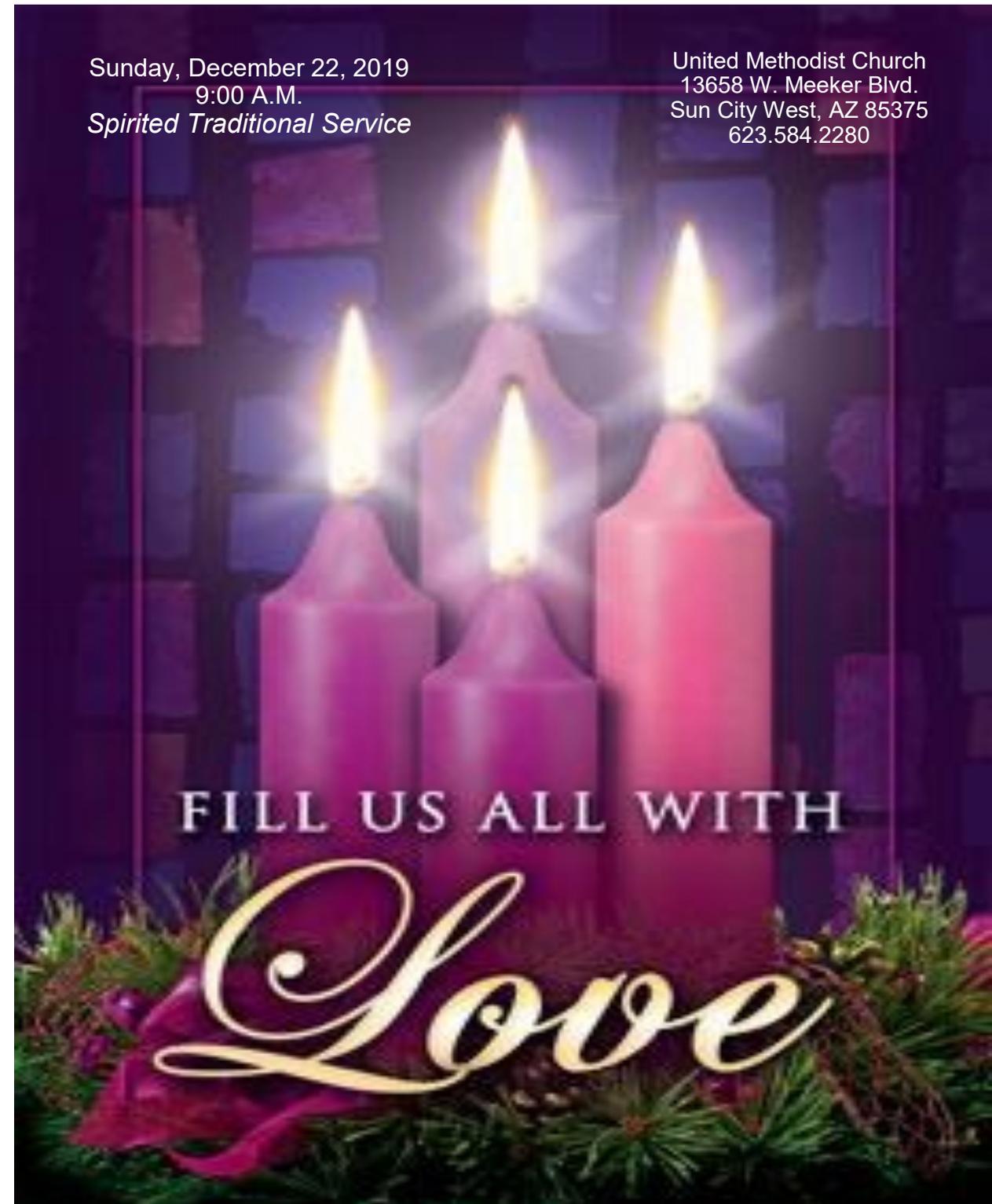
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As we worship . . . Please silence your cell phone.

We Are Chosen

We Are Blessed

We Are Loved

ORDER OF WORSHIP

** Indicates stand as you are comfortable*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lee Hirt

PRELUDE

"Good Tidings Medley"

arr. Susan Caudill

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 1:78-79

Liturgist: By the tender mercy of our God

People: the dawn from on high will break upon us;

Liturgist: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

ALL: To guide our feet into the way of peace.

*OPENING HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

UMH #211 vs. 1-4, 7

*OPENING PRAYER—In Unison

Liturgist

God of all people everywhere; God of the young, the old and the in between; the promise of Jesus' birth is that you are present with us, in every moment of life, from the very beginning to the very end, no matter where we find ourselves. Your presence comforts, consoles, guides and strengthens; here and now, everywhere and always. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Come and enable us to worship you in Spirit and in Truth. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

John & Penni Bowers

Today we light four candles. The first candle reminds us of our hope in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor; the second candle, of the love God has for us as his children, in spite of our flaws. The third candle reminds us of the joy we experience in serving a God who is almighty, all-knowing and always present. We light the fourth candle to remind us that Jesus came to earth as the Prince of Peace. In a world filled with conflict and discord, we pray for harmony and unity as we work towards claiming the promise of peace on earth.

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH #204

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Celtic Christmas Lullaby"
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Joel Raney

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

Liturgist

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR OPENNESS TO THE WORD

Pastor: Now let the words of my mouth

People: And the meditations of our hearts

**All: Be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer. Amen.**

MESSAGE

"The Journey: From Nazareth to Bethlehem"

Rev. Deborah Lerner

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH #230

PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Away In a Manger"

UMH #217 v. 3

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"A Strange Way to Save the World"

arr. Ken Goodenberger

*HYMN OF PRAISE *"Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain only)* UMH #238

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Liturgist

*THE LORD'S PRAYER - In Unison

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.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

UMH #246

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Carols of Joy and Wonder"

arr. Steven Scott

If you would like personal prayer after the service, you are welcome to come to the Prayer Room. Our prayer ministers will meet you there. You can either tell them specifically what you would like prayer for, or simply give them your name, and they will pray for you.

Liturgist

David Hodgins

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