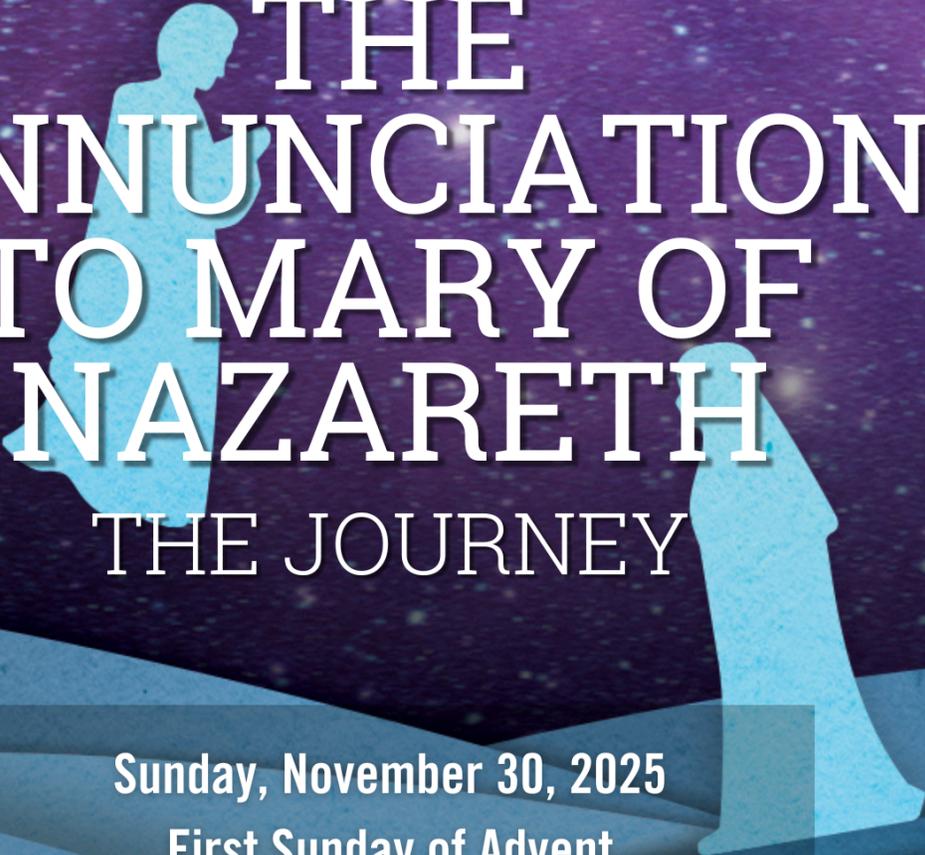




LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST



THE
ANNUNCIATION
TO MARY OF
NAZARETH
THE JOURNEY

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

From Heaven Above to Earth I Came

Johann Gotfried Walther

Edited Hopson

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Call to Worship

One: Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

All: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

All: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.

All: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

One: Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.

All: Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

Congregational Introit

Emmanuel, Emanuel

UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

©1978 Oxford University Press

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!
2. "How blest among all women you shall be,
Whom ev'ry age will praise continually.
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
"To me be as it pleases God." she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Prayers of the People

*A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying.
Online Worshipers may type prayer requests in the Live Chat, taking care for privacy.*

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Prayer Response

Rejoice! Emmanuel

Arr. Donald Moore

©1996 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSVue)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can

this be, since I am a virgin?”³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.”³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.”³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Scriptural Response

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

Every Valley

Joseph Martin
©2000 Malcom Music

Message

The Annunciation to Mary of Nazareth

Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

† Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† Prayer of Confession

All: Lord, you know that the time we've spent away from you has been filled with turmoil, disappointment, frustration, heartache, and despair. We have forgotten all about being blameless and turning the other cheek. We gave in to urges to be petty, spiteful, and hurtful. And while “telling it like it is” sure felt good at the time, we now find ourselves empty, confused, and ashamed. Today, we come here for Sabbath, for rest,

refreshment, and renewal. Lord, we want to be sanctified and holy. We want to be kind, to hold on to the good, and encourage and greet each other in love... but you're going to have to help us – a lot. Fill our mouths with praise and laughter, our hearts with joy and peace, and our souls with quiet satisfaction. This is our prayer. Amen.

One: The grace of our Lord is all over us, no matter what comes or what goes. Whether there are floods, earthquakes, overdue bills, disease, hardheaded children, unresponsive parents, betrayal, it doesn't matter because God is bigger than all the things that perplex us. May our hearts and minds be filled with confidence and peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† **Closing Hymn**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

UMH 198

1. My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is this name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.
3. From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

† **Benediction**

Postlude

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Arr. Johann Gottfried Walther
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Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.

Flowers: in honor of George & Sarilee Anderson. Gail Chatfield and Aleta Kerth who create a beautiful worship environment in our Sanctuary all year long

Liturgist: Lon Showley

Organist: Bob Wuertz

Pianist: Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Ann Davis, Ann Gonsalves, Janet Lind, Leigh Kramer, Jean Thomas

Tech Team: AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director;
Theresa Erb, Office Manager; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;
Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director