



“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.”

- John 1:6-7

December 13, 2020

ROLLING HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310-377-6771

www.rhumc.org

OUR CHURCH AT WORSHIP

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Althea Waites

CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 126

Leader: When the Lord brought the people home it seemed like a wonderful dream.

People: Our mouths were filled with laughter. We shouted for joy.

Leader: The nations said “The Lord has done great things for them.”

People: Surely you have done great things, O Lord, and we rejoice!

HYMN #384

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Charles Dickerson

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down;

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;

Suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,

Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL

Unison: God of joy, you come to us again this Advent season with the promise of salvation. You offer to renew us with your hope and lead us into a future where grace and joy are alive. But there are places in our hearts where we have refused to let you enter. There are people we have chosen not to love, and good things we have left undone. Shine on those places we have hidden from you, and show us new ways to live. Open our hearts, that Christ may find a home in us. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Logan Tootell

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning, our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.**

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN - Lighting the Candle of Joy

**A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

ANTHEM

"A Christmas Tapestry"

Handbell Choir

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

April Herron

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.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

Althea Waites

DOXOLOGY

#95

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

SCRIPTURE

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John bears witness to the light

Logan Tootell

SERMON

“Witnesses”

Jonathan Chute

HYMN #218

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Charles Dickerson

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**There’s a Spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.**

POSTLUDE

Althea Waites

Rev. Jonathan Chute, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus
Myra Ghabrial, Preschool Director
Annette Matsuda, Parish Nurse
Gabby Palacios, Kid Zone/Mid Zone Director
Debra DeLuca, Children’s Ministry Director
Kristin Reksc, Youth Ministry Director

Rev. Dr. April Herron, Associate Pastor
Charles Dickerson, III, Music Director
Althea Waites, Organist
Paula Kuno, 3rd Service Music
John Fitzgerald, Treasurer
Nicole Lowery Zakman, Church Business Mgr
Roksolana Vecerek, Exec. Asst. to Pastor
Peggy Roulette, Church Office Admin.
Miguel Portillo, Custodian