



December 24, 2023

ROLLING HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310-377-6771

**SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS
8:30 & 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.**

www.rhumc.org

OUR CHURCH AT WORSHIP

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 and 10 a.m.

*As we gather we hope you will visit quietly with friends.
Please silence cell phones.*

*Standing - if comfortable

PRELUDE “Prelude and Fugue in D Major” Op.35 – Mendelssohn Althea Waites

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today is a day for listening to the voices of angels.

People: Today is a day for raising our voices in song.

Leader: Today is a day for wondering.

People: Today is a day for praising God.

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” vs 1, 3 & 4 #238

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL

**Unison: Holy God, forgive us for the moments when we close ourselves off from
receiving good news. Forgive us when we lose sight of the power of your love.
Help us when we are discouraged so that we may remember to place our trust
in you. Lead us to Bethlehem and turn us toward the Christ child. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

8:30 – Dave Larson
10:00 – Brent Howell

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Sung to #57

**My soul gives glory to my God.
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.**

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Jonathan Chute

*Welcome pads are at the seats closest to the center aisle. Please share your name and
other helpful information and pass down the row. Afterward please return to the aisle seat.*

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN - Lighting the Candle of Love

*The children are invited to gather in front of the steps for a brief sermon and prayer.
Afterward, they may leave for Sunday School or stay for the rest of the service.*

**A candle is burning, a candle of love.
A candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's love to the earth.**

ANTHEM *"My Soul Doth Magnify"* – C. Saint-Saëns Chancel Choir
Abigail Whitman, Soprano; DeForest Kirkwood, Tenor & Dana Graham, Bass

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION Jonathan Chute

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 *"How Great Our Joy"* – arr. C. Courtney Chancel Choir

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

8:30 – Dave Larson
10:00 – Brent Howell
New Testament, p. 69

Luke 1:26-38

An angel visits Mary

SERMON

"Perplexed and Pondering"

April Herron

HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" vs 1, 2 & 3

#213

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple,
Set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come, with us abide;
Our hearts to thee we open wide;
Let us thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in us reveal.**

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 *"Prelude and Fugue in G Major"* – J. S. Bach Althea Waites

Important year-end note! To have your gifts count toward 2023 please be sure they are received or postmarked by December 31. Thank you for your generosity as we bring this remarkable year to a strong finish.

New to the Church?

We are grateful that we can worship together. Please use our digital welcome pad by opening the QR code. Thank you!



Rev. Jonathan Chute, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kristin Sutrave, Youth Ministry Director
Charles Dickerson, III, Music Director
Paula Kuno, 3rd Service Music
Myra Ghabrial, Preschool Director
Peggy Roulette, Church Office Administrator
Wade Welch, Treasurer

Rev. Dr. April Herron, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus
Althea Waites, Organist
Debra DeLuca, Children's Ministry Director
Gabby Palacios, Kid Zone/Mid Zone Director
Catherine Dingman, Executive Assistant
& Finance Manager
Miguel Portillo, Custodian