



*“He went into all the region around the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins...”*

- Luke 3:3

December 8, 2024

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 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 and 10 a.m.

As we gather we hope you will visit quietly with friends.

Please silence cell phone and pagers.

**Standing - if comfortable*

PRELUDE *"Sleepers Awake" (Wachet Auf) – Bach-Busoni* Althea Waites

INTROIT *"Sing We Now of Christmas"* Joyful Ringers

*CALL TO WORSHIP *adapted from Luke 1:68-79*

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, who looks with favor on the people and redeems us.

People: God has raised up a mighty savior in the house of his servant David.

Leader: God shows us mercy and remembers the covenant with our ancestors.

People: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

Leader: To give light to those who sit in darkness, who dwell in the shadow of death,

People: And guide our feet in the way of peace.

*HYMN *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* #196

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL

Unison: God of love, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused to let you enter – people we have chosen not to love, habits we fail to change, good things left undone. Come to us in the light of Christ. Shine on those places we have sought to hide from you, and show us new ways to live. Cleanse our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE John Fitzgerald

*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

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

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN - Lighting the Candle of Peace

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 peace.

A candle to signal that conflict must cease.

For Jesus is coming to show us the way,

A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

ANTHEM *"Prepare the Way of the Lord"* – Michael Larkin Chancel 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 Fitzgerald

Luke 3:1-6 John prepares the way for Jesus p. 72, New Testament

SERMON *"Real World Redemption"* Jonathan Chute

*HYMN *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* #218

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 & 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 Minor"* – J. S. Bach Althea Waites

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