

Celebrate

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025



What do
you fear?

WHEN YOU'RE AFRAID,
GIVE ME YOUR HAND

First
Church

Celebrate December 21, 2025

We Gather

Welcome & Lighting of Candles

Prelude

"Lost in the Night" by Keith Kolander
Charis Vander Plaats, Piano

Call to Worship

Leader: Here in worship—

People: we pray together,

Leader: we stand together,

People: we sing together,

Leader: we listen together.

People: Here in worship—we are not alone.

Leader: So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry, remember this moment.

People: We are not alone. L: Let us worship our with-us God.

Opening Hymn

"I Am Not Alone" see verses attached

Candle Lighting

A: In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

B: I see love all around us. I see love when people hold open the door. I see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. I see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. I see love all around us.

A: You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us.

B: Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.

A: Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

Opening Prayer

Immanuel, we turned off alarm clocks. We poured cups of coffee. We slipped shoes onto our feet and combed back flyaway hairs. We traveled to this room and settled into this space, all in hopes of drawing closer to you. So as we hear your Word read aloud, help us to feel your presence in our midst. For we are reaching out our hands. We are reaching out our hearts. Speak to us now. With hope we pray, amen.

Proclaiming

Message to Young Disciples

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 41:5-10

The coastlands have seen and are afraid; the ends of the earth tremble; they have drawn near and come. Each one helps the other, saying to one another, "Take courage!" The artisan encourages the goldsmith, and the one who smooths with the hammer encourages the one who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, "It is good," and they fasten it with nails so that it cannot be moved. But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant; I have chosen you and not cast you off"; do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Song

"Show Up"

Kory Pritchett and Charis Vander Plaats

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Leader: The Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Message

Pastor Duane Carlisle

When you are afraid, give me your hand

Message in Music

Aldersgate Bell Choir

"God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen" arr. Valerie Stephenson

Responding

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.

Moment of Generosity

The Peace

Sending Forth

Closing Hymn

"We're Not Alone" ~ see insert

Benediction

The Postlude

"Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella" arr. by Sally DeFord
Charis Vander Plaats, Piano

Christmas Season

SUNDAY, DEC 21

SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS: A CAROL SING-ALONG, BELL AND
FLUTES, & TALENT SHOWCASE AT 4:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, DEC 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, DEC 28

ONLY ONE SUNDAY SERVICE-11:00 AM FELLOWSHIP AT 10 AM

SUNDAY, JAN 4

ONLY ONE SUNDAY SERVICE-11:00 AM FELLOWSHIP AT 10 AM



I Am Not Alone

Verse 1

When I walk through deep waters
I know that You will be with me
When I'm standing in the fire
I will not be overcome
Through the valley of the shadow
I will not fear

Chorus

I am not alone
I am not alone
You will go before me
You will never leave me
I am not alone
I am not alone
You will go before me
You will never leave me
O come all ye faithful
joyful and triumphant
O come all ye faithful joyful and triumphant
O come

Verse 2

In the midst of deep sorrow
I see Your light is breaking through
The dark of night will not overtake me
I am pressing into You
Lord You fight my ev'ry battle
And I will not fear

Chorus 1

I am not alone
I am not alone
You will go before me
You will never leave me
I am not alone
I am not alone

Chorus 1 continued

You will go before me
You will never leave me
O come all ye faithful
joyful and triumphant
O come all ye faithful joyful and triumphant
O come

Bridge

You amaze me redeem me
You call me as Your own
You amaze me redeem me
You call me as Your own
(REPEAT)

Verse 3

You're my strength You're my defender
You're my refuge in the storm
Through these trials You've always been
faithful
You bring healing to my soul
I am not alone
I am not alone
You will go before me
You will never leave me
I am not alone
I am not alone
You will go before me
You will never leave me
O come all ye faithful, joyful and
triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of
angels;

Refrain:

O come let us adore him, O come let us
adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.



The Fourth Sunday of Advent | What do you fear?
WHEN YOU'RE AFRAID, GIVE ME YOUR HAND

We're Not Alone

ADESTE FIDELES Irr. with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by John Francis Wade, 1751

Fear all a - round you tells you you're a - lone — Urg - ing you to build
Give me your hand to hold when you feel frigh - tened We can up - hold each
When peo - ple live in fear — for their safe - ty Let us put priv - ilege
For - ward we march to - geth - er toward God's kin - dom Build - ing a big - ger

walls and i - so - late I know your fear be - cause I feel it, too —
o - ther in — our fear Per - son by per - son, we'll find strength to - geth - er
on the line — for them Stand with our sib - lings in — sol - i - dar - i - ty
ta - ble, not tall - er walls Work - ing to - geth - er, no - thing is im - poss - i - ble

12

When fear grows deep in - side us, re - mem - ber what u - nites us

17

No, no - thing can di - vide us; we're not a - lone

©Anna Strickland, 2025. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

PRAYERS

CONCERNS SHARED

RENE REYNOSO, COUSIN OF LETTY MITCHELL
MARISSA ROWE, NIECE OF BARBARA KRAUSE
EMILY MCLAUGHLIN, NIECE OF MARY MAXINE

WR MILLER
MACE WILLIAMS
ALL IN NEED OF PRAYERS

THOSE IN MEMORY CARE

JACK GAUNT PAT STAVER

OUR MILITARY

CDR JAMES BEATY SMAN KEVIN CLUTE LTC KEVIN FIELD HM2 KIM FOUNTAIN
AWR1 ISAIAH HALE MSG ANTHONY MAURO SMAN BEN RIDINGS LCDR ALEX TURCO
TSGT GERALD WELKER

LIVESTREAM

RILEY SCHELLINGERHOUT

ALTO

GAIL POLLES

LEAD PASTOR

DUANE CARLISE

WORSHIP TEAM

SLIDES

TOM DIENHART

SOPRANO

KAREN HULL

ASSISTANT PASTOR

KORY PRITCHETT

SOUNDBOARD

EVORA SCHELLINGERHOUT

PIANO

CHARIS VANDER PLAATS

MUSIC DIRECTOR

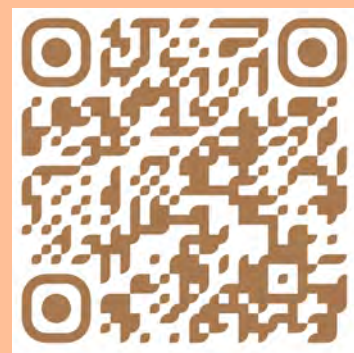
CHARIS VANDER PLAATS

GIVING



[HTTPS://ONREALM.ORG/
FUMCWL/-/FORM/GIVE/NOW](https://onrealm.org/fumcwl/-/form/give/now)

BULLETIN



[HTTPS://WWW.FUMCWL.ORG/BULLETINS/](https://www.fumcwl.org/bulletins/)

CHECK IN



[HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/FORMS/D/
E/1FAIPQLSCTJ926IGACZWHNAYLCSMF0
GOYGKAYJZE4JSNTOIBMYR_B-
W/VIEWFORM](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIPQLSCTJ926IGACZWHNAYLCSMF0GOYGKAYJZE4JSNTOIBMYR_B-W/VIEWFORM)

GET INVOLVED

Feed the Kids

Children in our community may qualify for free lunches at school, but that doesn't help on the weekends. To fill the void, we buy prepackaged food from Food Finders, bag it and deliver it to Edgelea School in Lafayette. Two sets of volunteers pack the food for 20+ children, then our team of drivers deliver it on Thursdays so the kids can take it home on Fridays. Basement elves: Our volunteers assemble the packages in our basement. They are Judi, Jane, Terry and Lynne; the Boyers family: Ellie, Hayden and Brendan. Want to help? To feed one child it costs \$7 per week, about \$250 per year.



We Can All Do Our Part

- Can you help at the hospitality table on Sundays? Volunteers start the coffee and set out cookies at 8:30 AM Sundays then clean up at 11:15. Kristie Bishop, Virginia Black, Betty Tonsing and Jeanne and John Norberg have learned how and can show you the ropes. Use the signup sheet located at the coffee bar. Our next open slots are January 11, 18 & 25.
- Office help is appreciated. If you can give two hours, 1 to 3 PM, on Thursdays. Thanks to Carol, Judi, Terry, Cassandra, Connie and Jeanne, for taking a shift. Our next open slots are Dec. 29 and Jan. 22.



Contact jnorberg@purdue.edu if you can help with any of these tasks.

Joyful Jubilee

Last weekend, we invited struggling parents to FUMC to select free toys, gift certificates and food for their holiday celebrations. 33 families and 87 children were served. The community-wide event, LUM Jubilee Christmas, is organized by Lafayette Urban Ministry. Behind the scenes were many volunteers, led once again by Ronda Kroeschen, our administrative assistant. Others included Ronda's husband, Gene, Ann, Terry, Cassandra, John, and Jeanne, Diane, Karen, Ainsley, Connie, Roberta, Kathy, Carol and Dave, Reid, Grayson, Parker, Gail, Traci, Edith, Benny, Nate, Hayden, and Brenden. But none of this would be possible if it weren't for everyone that donated cookies and toys! Thanks for everyone's help!

