Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and your sights and witnesses, in everyone and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ANTHEM
THE WINTER ROSE
BY: JOSEPH M. MARTIN

*HYMN OF INVITATION
GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE
UMH #224, V. 1 & 3
WORDS BY: JOHN MASON NEALE
MUSIC BY: GARY ALAN SMITH

1.Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today, Christ is born today!
3.Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING FORTH
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
UMH ,#251, V. 1
WORDS BY: JOHN W. WORK
MUSIC BY: WILLIAM FARLEY SMITH

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

POSTLUDE
JOY TO THE WORLD
BY ISAAC WATTS AND LOWELL MASON

WE WELCOME THE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REV. FRANCEY HOOTON TO HELP LEAD US IN WORSHIP AND BRING THE MESSAGE TODAY.

FUMC Links

Online Giving

First United Methodist Church, DeRidder, has the right to music, streaming and video for all music contained in this worship service. CCLI #1203752, Streaming License #20202614 & CVLI #505440498

"Follow That Star"
Matthew 2:1-12
Rev. Francey Hooton

January 4, 2026
Worship Service with Communion
Sanctuary & Online
10:00 AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
406 SHIRLEY ST • DERIDDER, LA 70634 • 337.463.4491
P.O. BOX 965 DERIDDER, LA 70634
WWW. FUMCDERIDDER.ORG • OFFICE@FUMCDERIDDER.ORG
Central to DeRidder, Centered in Christ
Our Mission is to Grow and Serve in Christ

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Nursery is provided (birth - 4 years old) in the Education Building

Prelude

Angels We Have Heard on High

Performed by Bell Choir

Welcome Home!

Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Rise, Shine, You People

UMH #187, V 1

Words & Music by: Ronald A. Klug & Dale Wood

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. Christ comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.

*Call to Worship - LiAna Gray

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

People: We are called out of our darkness into light.

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around.

People We rejoice in the gift of light.

Leader: Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace

People: We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe, the light incarnate.

*Hymn of Praise

The First Noel

UMH #245

Words & Music by:Trad. English carol

1.The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

(Refrain) Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

2.They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;and to the earth it gave great light,and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

3.And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.(Refrain)

4.This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;and there it did both stop and stay,right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

5.Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,and offered there, in his presence,their gold and myrrh and frankincense. (Refrain)

*Affirmation of Faith -LiAna Gray

Leader: Brother and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing of our Joys & Concerns

Call to Prayer

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH #204, V 1

Words & Music by: Bob McGee

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

Congregational Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Offering Prayer & Return of God's Tithes & Gifts

*Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

#94

Words by Thomas Ken

Music from *Geistliche Kirchengesange*

Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

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!

Hymn of Faith

We Three Kings

UMH 254, V 1 & 3

Words and Music by: John H. Hopkins

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (Refrain)

3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. (Refrain)

Scripture Reading - LiAna Gray

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

"Follow that Star"

Rev. Francey Hooton

Invitation to Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession & Pardon

Merciful God, We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.