

**Order of Worship**  
**Friendship United Methodist Church**  
**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

*Please turn off the internet connection on your cell phones or place them in "Airplane Mode."*

**Gathering**  
**Greeting/Announcements**

**"This Is The Day"**

**Call to Worship**

**from Isaiah 35**

**L:** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

**P:** *like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.*

**L:** The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

**P:** *They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.*

**L:** Here is your God.

**P:** *He will come and save us.*

**All:** *We light this candle as a sign of the one who is to come,  
God's gift of salvation. O Come, O Come Emmanuel!*

**Opening Prayer**

**Shirley Waldrum**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

**UMH #196**

**"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"**

*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.*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**UMH #887**

**L:** *There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for all, to whom we testify.*

**All:** *This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen.*

**\*Gloria Patri**

**UMH # 70**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**Scripture Reading**

**Isaiah 35:4b-10**

*[The Lord] will come and save you.  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,*

*but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

**L:** This is the Word of God, for the people of God.

**P:** *Thanks be to God!*

**Offertory Prayer**

**Rev. Spore**

**Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**The Choir**

***“Good Christian Friends Rejoice” (UMH #224)***

*As the Spirit leads, those worshipping in person may place their gifts  
in the offering plates located near the doors of the sanctuary.*

**\*The Doxology**

**UMH # 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*

**Children's Time**

**Rev. Spore**

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns/Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer**

*During this time, the congregation is invited to offer up their concerns  
for others by speaking their name or by typing their name into the  
“chat” box on Facebook. Please offer only their first name to protect  
their privacy. After each name is raised, let the congregation respond:  
“Lord, hear our prayer.”*

**Hymn of Celebration**

**UMH #218**

***“It came Upon a Midnight Clear”***

*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.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.*

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and 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.*

**Hymn of Preparation**

**UMH # 207**

***“Prepare the Way of the Lord”***

*Prepare the way of the Lord.*

*Prepare the way of the Lord,*

*And all people will see the salvation of our God. (x3)*

**Message**

*“Rejoicing in the Desert”*

**Rev. Spore**

**Hymn of Discipleship**

***“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”***

*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.*

*Thy Holy Spirit lead us on  
until our glorious goal is won;  
eternal praise, eternal fame  
be offered, Savior, to thy name!*

**Benediction**

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**Each Sunday**

9:50 – Sunday School

11:00 – Worship

**Sunday, December 14**

Christmas Party (after worship)

**Wednesday, December 24**

5:30 – Candlelight Festival

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Roy Spore –Pastor

Shirley Waldrum – Music leader

Linda Pease –Pianist

Karen Spore – Technical Assistant

Jane Pollard – Lay Reader

**Friendship United Methodist Church**

**293 Friendship Rd.**

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**Opportunities for Involvement and Ministry**