



***Please stand if you are able**
UMH is United Methodist Hymnal (red book)
TFWS is The Faith We Sing (black book)

Welcome/Brief Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Hymn TFWS 2090 (v 3)

Advent Song

Call to Worship (*responsive*):

Leader: Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!

All: For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.

L: Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day.

A: and shall be my people; and will dwell in your midst.

L: The hills and the mountains will be singing praise to God.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*):

ALL: Joyful and patient God, you break into our Advent busyness with your extravagant promise of glory and joy. Fire up our imaginations with holy trust in your goodness. Inspire us with a patience that sees beyond our habitual longing for past glories and understandings. Move us beyond our too familiar criticisms of one another and ourselves. Open our eyes and help us see your compassion, already at work in our world: healing, restoring, strengthening, and telling the good news that you are near. Make us signs of your everlasting joy for your people and for all the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose nearness we proclaim. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** UMH 210

All Earth Is Waiting

Joys & Concerns with Pastoral/Lord's Prayer

Tithes & Offerings with Offertory

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus arr. Edward Broughton
*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*The Doxology UMH 95

Children's Time

Choir Anthem

Scripture

James 5:7-10

Hymn TFWS 2095

Star Child

Scripture

Matthew 11:2-11

Message

Preparing Our Hearts: Joy

*Hymn TFWS 2092

Like a Child

*Benediction & *Postlude

People, Look East arr. Stephen L. Aber

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*Has God laid something on your heart from today's worship?
Write it down so you don't forget to take it into your week!*

*Tell someone you didn't come in with that you love them
and that you're glad they're here!*

**Meet Jesus ~ Follow Jesus ~ Serve Jesus
Love Boldly ~ Serve Joyfully ~ Lead Courageously**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/IMPORTANT NOTES

Welcome! We're so glad you are here worshipping with us today! Children are *always* welcome to stay and participate in worship. The nursery is open and located in the corner of the fellowship hall. If this is your first time with us, please fill out a Welcome Card and place in the offering plate. We Livestream our services each Sunday. You can find these services on our church Facebook page: www.facebook.com/1stUMCGouv/

-RIP IT- Free exercise group. Check FB group for updates.

-Bible Studies- Wednesdays **10am** in Rm 103 (Acts), Thursdays at **7pm**.

-Angel Tree- DUE TODAY!! Please bring items to table in office wing.

-Blue Christmas Service- Mon. Dec. 22nd at 7pm. Location TBD

- Christmas Dinner- Wed. Dec. 24th between 11am & Noon. (Desserts needed)

-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service- Wed. Dec. 24th at 9pm. Our Christmas Eve Offering has been chosen to bless 2 missions this year: local mission- Ryan's Wish; global mission- support the people of Ukraine.

Read Ahead: Matthew 1:18-25

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Bishop: Rev. Héctor A. Burgos

District Superintendent: Rev. Yohang Chun

Pastor: Benjamin Lalka pastorbenlalka@gmail.com

Pastor Office hours: Tues.-Fri. 9am-1pm Day of Rest: Mondays

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First United Methodist Church of Gouverneur

Pastor Benjamin Lalka

Choir Director: Don Schuessler

Organist: Glenda Schuessler

December 14, 2025

