



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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December 24 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

(*) *The congregation will please stand as able*
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

THE CHURCH GATHERS

SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

Procession of Christ Candle *Katie Pyrich*

Prelude In the Bleak Midwinter

Arr. For Handbells by Mark Schweizer

*Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst Public Domain, arr. for Handbells Mark Schweizer © 2010 St. James Music Press 4580
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***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are here...

**because we have heard a promise of peace,
and we have faith its day will come.**

We have heard a rumor of justice,
and we have faith its day will come.

**We have heard a whisper of hope,
and we have faith its day will come.**

We have heard a hint of love, and we have faith its day will come.

**We have heard of the birth of the Christ-child,
and we have faith his day is here.**

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to Christmas.

***Opening Carol No. 234**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fidelis

Verses 1, 3, 5, 6, and refrain: ALL, Verse 2 – Females, Verse 4 – Males

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: John F. Wade, ca. 1743
 Trans.: Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

Music: John F. Wade, ca. 1743
 Tune: *ADESTE FIDELIS*, Irr.

G Major: G D/F# D G D G C G/D D Em

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 4. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,

5 D A D G/B D/F# G D/A A7 D

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

9 G/B Am G Am G D/F# G Em Am/C D

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

NC 13 G D/F# G D7/A G D/F# G

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

17 Am G D/F# A7/E D7 G/B C G/D D7 G

come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

5. Child, for us sinners
 poor and in the manger,
 we would embrace thee
 with love and awe.
 Who would not love thee,
 loving us so dearly?
Refrain

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning,
 Jesus, to thee be
 all glory given.
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing:
Refrain

Latin: *Adeste, fideles,
 laeti triumphantes;
 venite, venite in Bethlehem.
 Natum videte
 Regem angelorum.
 Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
 venite adoremus, Dominum.*

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LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE **

Gary Leughmyer & Family

Reader 1:

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Reader 2:

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love,
and we find these things in a child.

God made flesh as a baby in a manger.

A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation,
who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation:

**We live as people in the in-between
who celebrate the arrival of the Light
that shines in lost and broken places
as we wait for the day when we will live
in the fullness of God's kingdom.**

Reader 1:

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope,
our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us,
and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light.

May the Light burning in our hearts
guide us, comfort us, protect us,
and tend us in all seasons and circumstances,
reminding us that day and night,
in the light and in the darkness,
God is with us.

Our salvation has come! Amen.

The Congregation may be seated

CHORAL RESPONSE

The Advent Candle*

Charles Bennet/Bob Chilcott

Tonight we are lighting a candle;
a candle to burn until
You come to bring light to darkness
and warm us with goodwill
Tonight in the sky there's a star
we've never seen before
A star to lighten our darkness
and bring us to your door
Tonight there's a window inside us;
a window you'll open wide
We are lighting a candle to guide us;
soon we'll be by your side

*Words: Charles Bennet © 2012 Oxford University Press Great Clarendon St. Music Department, Oxford UK OX2 6DP UK; All rights reserved; Music: Bob Chilcott, © 2012 OUP UK; All rights reserved; Reprinted and recorded under OneLicense.net # A-711296.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

(Please Remain Seated)

Lesson: The Angel Visits Mary

Luke 1:26-38 (Pg.831)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear 218

1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,

from an-gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told

“Peace on the earth, good will to men,* from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,
 look now! for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing.
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol-lemn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

***“all” may be substituted*

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14)
 MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

CAROL
 CMD

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Lesson The Birth in Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-7 (Pg.832)

230 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
 86.86.76.86

Alt. tune: FOREST GREEN

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Lesson The Angels & The Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20 (Pg.833)

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

MENDELSSOHN

Verses



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



1. new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,
 2. last - ing Lord; Late in time, be - hold him come,
 3. Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



1. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye
 2. Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 3. Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



1. na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; With an -
 2. God - head see! Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty! Pleased as
 3. glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to



1. gel - ic hosts pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 2. man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 3. raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Text: 77 77 D with refrain; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831–1915.

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CHOIR CAROL In the Bleak Midwinter *Arr. by Harold Darke*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim,
worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti 1873, Public Domain; Music Harold Darke © 1911 Stainer & Bell LTD, London, © 2013 St. James Music Press 4580 State Street Saginaw MI 48603; Printed and recorded under our [license #234](#)

Puppet Play “Tess, the Tender-Hearted Camel” *****

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Lesson: The Word Made Flesh John1:1-5,14; 3:16-17

Reflection Pastor Ho-Soon Han

***Carol** O Holy Night *P. Cappeau / Adlophe Adam*

Verse 1

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Verse 2

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend

Verse 3

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim

Words: (1843) Placide Cappeau, Public Domain; Music: (1843) Adolphe Adam, Arr. J. S. Dwight, Public Domain.

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This Christmas I wish for you
light to crumple up the darkness.

**This Christmas I wish for you
love to pull us closer to one another.**

This Christmas I wish for you
peace the same the angels sang.

**This Christmas I wish for you
starlight to follow on your way home.**

This Christmas I wish for you
the promise to keep hope alive for you.

**This Christmas I wish for you Jesus Christ,
the light of the world.**

**Loving God, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
we join the angels' song,
witness the wonder of the shepherds,
and worship with the wise men.**

**May the spirit of love spread across the globe,
replacing hate, anger, and fear
with kindness and compassion.**

**May the blessings of Christ help us to overcome evil
and lead us towards a life of your love.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus,
who is present among us tonight and always. Amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY

D Bm A A⁷ D/F[#] G D A⁷ D A⁷
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God all

7 D G A⁷ D A⁷ D A⁷ Bm A A⁷
crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye

12 D/F[#] G D A⁷ D A⁷ D G A⁷ D A⁷ D
heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

18 A⁷ D Bm F[#]m D G A⁷ D A
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A⁷/E D/F[#] D/A A⁷ D
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: Trad. English Carol

THE FIRST NOEL
Irr. with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003
Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address:
music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

**He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.**

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy, he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame he came,
and his Light would not go out.

**He came to a world that did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.**

**We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voices,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!**

* CANDLE LIGHT CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

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1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - i - gem Haar,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;
 st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.

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*Benediction

VOLUNTARY

Improvisation for Christmas

VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TONIGHTS SERVICE:

Liturgist: Donna Downes
Video and Sound Engineer: John Wilderman
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias and Flowers donated by members of the Congregation
Image on Cover: By Staff at UMC

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***Worship elements *Discipleship ministries* <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>
First Coming by Madeleine L'Engle, in Cry Like a Bell; Robert Louis Stevenson
**** *TESS, THE TENDER HEARTED CAMEL Play and recording* © 2022 Mark Burrows. Used with permission.
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Puppeteers:
Charlotte Pyrich, Alejandra Hernandez-Parsell, Natalia Hernandez-Parsell, Madilyn Gabbard

Recorded Voices of the Puppets
Narrator: Michelle Pyrich
Stella: Karen Lindsey
Saba: Kristen Sturtevant
Lumpy: Kaitlin Ciccarello
Tess: Maddie Abrahams

Puppets are made by Donna Walter and the stage by John Wilderman.

Looking Ahead

Readings for December 31, 2023
First Sunday after Christmas Day Year "B"
[Isaiah 61:10-62:3 / Psalm 148](#)
[Galatians 4:4-7 / Luke 2:22-40](#)

More information about our church, our ministries, and to contact us can be found [on our website.](#)

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