

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community

December 24, 2022 - 5:00pm

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service for Children and Families



PRELUDE:

“On Christmas Night”
“O Come, Little Children”

English Carol; arr. David Cherwien
German Carol; arr. Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Come, all ye faithful, and adore Him! God-made-flesh has come to be one of us; to share our joys and sorrows; to show us how to live a life of love.

P: Let us quiet our hearts to hear the song of the Angels

L: Let us go with the Shepherds to find a Savior.

P: Let us treasure with Mary in our hearts the story of our salvation!

L: Let us worship with the Magi a King born to save us all!

P: Let us celebrate with the poor and humble the gift of God With Us. Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all humankind!

*Opening Carol UMH #234: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1, 3, 6)

1) 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!

2) True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal,

Lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
[Refrain]

3) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
[Refrain]

6) Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born on Christmas morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *[Refrain]*

** Please stand if you are able*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH:

READING *(see attached if you'd like to follow along)*

The Sharrow Family

UNISON PRAYER: **Christ our Light, we believe you are the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. You are the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied, and you live today in our hearts and in our living. We pledge to you our highest loyalty, and we rejoice that in you, our hope is fulfilled, our peace is sealed, our joy is complete; and our love is made flesh. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE UMH #230: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1)*

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE - *Children are invited forward for a special message just for them.*

SPECIAL MUSIC:

*“A Baby Just Like You”
Dr. Robert Miller*

by John Denver

OUR BLESSED STORY:

Narrators: Alexa Sharrow, Hailey Sharrow, Stacy Sharrow

THE PROPHECY (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6)

JOSEPH IS REASSURED IN A DREAM (Matthew 1:18-21, 24)

Hymn #228, vs. 1 & 3 – “He Is Born”

Chorus: He is born, the Holy Child! Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily
He is born, the Holy Child! Sing we all of the Savior mild.

Through long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming.
Through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! [Chorus]

Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us.
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace. [Chorus]

MARY AND JOSEPH TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM (Luke 2:1-7)

Hymn #217, vs. 1 & 3 – “Away In a Manger”

(Children with Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and Manger Animal blocks may bring them forward during the hymn.)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

SHEPHERDS WERE ABIDING IN THE FIELDS (Luke 2:8)

Hymn #245, vs. 1 & 2 – “The First Noel”

(Children with Shepherd or Sheep blocks may bring them forward during the hymn.)

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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel

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
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel

ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS (Luke 2:9-14)

Narrator: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly
Host, praising God and saying...

**Congregation: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will
toward all people!**

Hymn #238, vs. 1-2 – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

(Children with Angel blocks may bring them forward during the hymn.)

1) Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2) Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

SHEPHERDS VISIT THE NEWBORN KING (Luke 2:15-20)

Hymn #219, vs. 1 – “What Child Is This”

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

THE MAGI FOLLOW THE STAR (Matthew 2:1-8)

Hymn #254, vs. 1 – “We Three Kings”

(Children with Magi or Camel blocks may bring them forward during the hymn.)

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O-ho, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

ALL THE FAITHFUL FALL ON BENDED KNEE (Matthew 2:9-13)

***Hymn #3064, vs. 1 & 4 – “On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing”**

On Christmas night, all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night, all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King’s birth!

All out of darkness, we have light, which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness, we have light, which made the angels sing this night;
“Glory be to God, on earth be peace, goodwill to all shall never cease!”

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY: *“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”* French Carol; arr. Wilbur Held

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*seated*): **Loving God, we bring you not only our offering, but ourselves as well. May our gifts and our lives continue the ministry Christ began in our world this night long ago. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Bells Are Ringing”* by John Jennings / Mary Chapin Carpenter
Mark Ode

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Pastor Amy Terhune

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.

***CLOSING CAROL #239:** *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*
(During the hymn, the ushers will light the candle of the first person in each pew.
Please keep lit candles upright and tilt unlit candles to be lit.)

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace. | 3) Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. |
| 2) Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born! | 4) Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born |

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE:**

“Silent Night”

by Franz Gruber; arr. Jeanne Cotter



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS tonight: Chuck Priem, Joe Kozumplik, Jim Ling, Angie Smith

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED through January 2. We'll reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023 at 8:30am. Dina Draper and Pastor Amy will be on vacation during that time. However, in the case of a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Amy's cell phone at (989) 274-6363.

REMINDER – WORSHIP ON SUNDAY 12/25 WILL BE BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE.

REMINDER – WORSHIP ON SUNDAY 1/1/2023 WILL BE ONLINE ONLY AT 10:00am. The service has been pre-recorded. Do not come in person, as no one will be here, and the building will not be open.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP – Wednesday, January 4, 2023 – 7:00pm

YOUTH MISSION TRIP MEETING – Sunday, January 8, 2023 – 6:00pm

FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS will resume on the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning January 10. Sign up online or call the church office at (989) 799-0131 to help set up, serve, cook, or clean-up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>. You can sign up to donate food at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food2>.

LYRICS REPRODUCED HERE by permission: CCLI#1003593.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

First United Methodist Church

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Senior PastorRev. Amy Lee Brun Terhune
.....pastoralbt@outlook.com / (989) 274-6363 (cell phone)
Office Administrator/TreasurerDina Draper
Custodian Tina Castle
Director of Music & Chancel Choir Rod Bieber
Organist..... Bryan Latimer
Bell Choir DirectorCatherine McMichael
Audio Visual Technician Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

Christmas Eve: December 24, 2022

Adapted from Derek Weber, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022>

LIGHT: Our Christmas Affirmation

Reader One: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Those who lived in a land of deepest darkness, on them light has shined!” (Isaiah 9:2 NRSV)

Reader Two: Before advent hope moves us; before advent peace motivates us, before advent joy stirs us; before advent love defines us, the light of Christ must touch us and shape our lives, giving us wisdom, purpose, and direction. We rejoice, for the savior is born!

Reader One: “A child has been born for us.... Authority rests on his shoulders, and his called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6 NRSV)

Reader Two: We light these candles – the candle of gladsome hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and of ever-present Love – to create a circle of light. And then we light the Christ Candle, at the very center, acknowledging that Christ is the center of our lives and the light of the world.

Light the four advent candles AND the Christ candle at the center.

Reader One: Let us pray.

People: Christ our Light, we believe you are the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. You are the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied, and you live today in our hearts and in our living. We pledge to you our highest loyalty, and we rejoice that in you, our hope is fulfilled, our peace is sealed, our joy is complete; and our love is made flesh. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SONG: UMH #230 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1 only)

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