

First United Methodist Church

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

December 24, 2022 - 7:30pm

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols



GATHERING AND PRAISE

Seasonal Selections for an Extended Prelude: *(as time allows...)*

“Sing We Now of Christmas” – Catherine McMichael & Bryan Latimer – *arr. Ellen Foncannon*

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” – Catherine McMichael on Bell Tree – *arr. Catherine McMichael*

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks...” – C. McMichael on Bell Tree – *arr. Catherine McMichael*

“The First Noel” – Catherine McMichael on Bell Tree – *arr. Catherine McMichael*

“Joseph’s Song” – Josh Keeler – *w/m by Michael Card*

“One Still Night” – Peg Wilken, Terry Moon, Bryan Latimer – *by Neil & Kate DeGraide*

Call to Worship

L: We count it in mere hours now. Soon the first pains of labor will be felt; soon the Light will shine in the darkness; soon the baby will be born.

P: Soon God will again break into our lives, coming in unusual ways, challenging our expectations, and calling us to see life differently.

L: Come, all you of faith, and hear again the songs of the angels and the joy of lowly shepherds.

P: We come to adore and worship the Savior of all!

*Opening Carol UMH #234: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1, 2, 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

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*The Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Peg Wilken & Terry Moon

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

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 #3064: *“On Christmas Night” (vs. 1 & 4)*

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!”

Time of Silent Meditation

The Pastoral Prayer for Christmas Eve

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.

Living Our Gratitude

♪ *Please continue to support your church family during this time of “social distancing”. Enjoy the musical selection as a time to give thanks to God for all with which you have been blessed. Use the QR code to the right or give online here:*

<https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give>



Offertory: *“What Is This Lovely Fragrance?”*

French Carol; arr. Henry Kihlken

Scripture Lesson One:

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Evie Kraynak

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined... ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. And the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

* **Carol UMH #219:** “*What Child Is This?*” (vs 1-2)

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| 1) 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? | 2) Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. [<i>Chorus</i>] |
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Chorus: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Scripture Lesson Two:

Micah 5:2-5a

Cal Mott

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Carol UMN #230:

“*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” (vs. 1, 3, 4)

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| 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. | No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in. |
| 3) How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven. | 4) O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel! |

Scripture Lesson Three:

Luke 2:1-7

Anne Marks-Gaertner

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered for the tax. ²This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went register with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Choral Anthem:*“A Silent, Holy Night”**by Tom Fettke***Scripture Lesson Four:**

Luke 2:8-14

David Marks

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: ¹¹for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, singing, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all of humankind!”

*** Carol:***“Angels We Have Heard on High” (vs. 1-3)**UMH #238*

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| <p>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!</p> <p>2) Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be</p> | <p>which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</p> <p>3) Come to Bethlehem and see
 Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</p> |
|---|---|

Scripture Lesson Five:

Luke 2:15-20

Madeline Curtiss

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told to them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Choral Anthem:*“Christmas Peace”**by Joel Raney***Christmas Meditation***Pastor Amy Terhune***Choral Anthem:***“Still, Still, Still”**arr. Norman Luboff**W/ Catherine McMichael on Bell Tree*

WE GO TO SHARE CHRIST'S LIGHT WITH THE WORLD

Benediction:

L: Beloved, as we go from here, the music will fade. The angels will return to the heavens they came from, the shepherds will go back to their flocks. Mary and Joseph will take Jesus and run for Egypt and safety from Herod. But the light still shines, and the darkness cannot overcome it. The song echoes on in your life and mine. The babe in Bethlehem is still the Lord of the earth. This is the lasting impact of God made flesh. Thanks be to God! Merry Christmas!

Closing Hymn:

“Silent Night”

UMH #239

As we pass the light, please hold lit candles upright, and tilt unlit candles to be lighted.

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| <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> |
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*** You are invited to stand if you are able**



PARTICIPANTS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Amy Terhune
Organist: Bryan Latimer
Director of Music: Rod Bieber
Director of the Bell Choir Catherine McMichael
Audio Visual Technicians Izzy Terhune

CHURCH STAFF:

Office Administrator/Treasurer: Dina Draper
Custodian: Tina Castle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WATCH THE LIVESTREAM OF TONIGHT'S SERVICE at <https://youtu.be/PK8p6Tx1Mec>

THANK YOU TO TONIGHT'S USHERS: Tom Kraynak, Bill Cowdry, Lou & Karen Constan

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abbe, David Barker, Myrna Cammin, Bonnie & Pat Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Dr. Kirk Herrick, Glenn Hinds, Barb Kropp, Joyce Maltman, Camille Marek, Sheldon & Bonnie Markley, John Mertz, Merlyn Mondol, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Wendy Southgate Murphy, Ron Perry, Anne Ruffle, and Eugenia Shek. Also, please pray for all who are grieving, for UMCOR, for all suffering from Covid-19, and for a way to peace/equality for humankind.

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 at 10AM 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.

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>.

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CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY – Saturday, January 14, 9:30am-Noon. Once APFG moves out and the back classrooms are empty, there is some cleaning and rearranging that needs to be done to get our building ready for the next phase of ministry.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA! *Be sure to check in on Facebook! The more of us that do, the more people learn about who we are!*

YouTube: **Saginaw First UMC**

Twitter: **FirstUMCofSaginaw**

Instagram: **saginawfumc**

Facebook: **First United Methodist Church of Saginaw**

SAGINAW FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – CONTACT US!

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Check out our website: <https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org>

Pastor Amy Terhune Phone: (989) 274-6363 pastorALBT@outlook.com

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

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 – W&S #3064 – “On Christmas Night” (vs 1 & 4)

1) 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!

4) 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!”