

December 24, 2021
Sanctuary Worship, 7:30 PM

Welcome to worship this evening!

Please remember to follow the directions of our ushers and wear appropriate facemasks at all times inside the building.



Christmas Eve

Greeting

Hymn – O Come, All Ye Faithful

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;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh, now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

UMH 234, vv. 1,3,6. John F. Wade, trans. by Frederick Oakeley.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Karen & Jon Owens

Leader: Tonight we gather with joyful hearts to receive God's greatest gift.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Leader: Tonight we hear again the good news that was given for all people.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Leader: Tonight we join in steadfast wonder at God's amazing love.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Leader: Tonight we welcome the Savior whose birth has forever changed our lives.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

God Is Near

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

The musical score is written on four staves of a treble clef in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and suitable for congregational singing. The lyrics are: 'Lis - ten to the an - gels, hear the mes - sage they bring; tell - ing the news of a com - ing King; fill - ing the world with hope and good cheer. Je - sus, Em - man - u - el, God is near.'

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Hymn – *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.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

UMH 219. William C. Dix, 16th cent. English melody.

Christmas Prayer & Lord's Prayer

(To share your joys and concerns, please text them to Elias at 252-578-1090.)

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.

Choir Anthem – *In the Bleak Midwinter*

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 so long, so long ago.

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

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, I give Him, I give Him, my heart.

Christina Rossetti; Harold Darke, arr. by Benjamin Harlan. ©1997 Hinshaw Music Inc. CCLI#1374588.

Scripture Lesson – Luke 2: 1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Hymn – *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

UMH 220. James Montgomery, Henry T. Smart.

Message – God Speaks: Welcome

Sharing Peace

Sharing Holy Communion

Candlelighting

Hymn – *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
the wonders of his love, the wonders, the wonders of his love.

UMH 218, vv. 1, 2, 4. Edmund H. Sear; Richard Storrs Willis.

Blessing & Sending Out