

December 12 9:00AM Common Thread Worship

Please tell the lot attendant how you will be worshipping so they can direct you where best to park. Thank you!



Greeting

Hymn – *Once in Royal David's City*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her only Child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and low lived our Savior long ago.

But our eyes in truth should see Him through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above.
As He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children crowned, all in white, His praise will sound!

Cecil Frances Alexander; Henry Gantlett, arr. by John Leavitt.

Prayer

Lighting Our Third Advent Candle

The Walkowiak Family

God Is Near

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

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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First Lesson: To Us a Child Is Born

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Song – *A Light Has Dawned*

A light has dawned a King has come to redeem every heart and soul.
Born unto us, Emmanuel, the Savior of the world.
Let us adore and praise His name.

Angels rejoice and shepherds bow at the sight of the holy Child.
Men from afar searching to find the Savior of the world.

Let us adore and praise His name.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna, let us sing,

Hosanna in the highest, we give glory to the King, glory to the King.

You are the Christ, the Son of God, and the nations will rally to You.

Let every heart come recognize the Savior of the world.

Let us adore and praise His name.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna, let us sing,

Hosanna in the highest, we give glory to the King, glory to the King.

We give glory to the King. We give glory to the King. We give glory to the King.

Tim Light and Don Chapman © 2004 Hearts to God Music. CCLI# 1374588

Second Lesson: The Branch from Jesse

Isaiah 11: 1-4, 6-9

Song – O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom thee, O Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thy advent here.

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come Emmanuel. God with us, here to rule and reign.

O come Emmanuel. We stand before Your throne in need of grace.

O come Emmanuel. Cleanse our hearts. Fill our minds anew.

O come Emmanuel. We stand before Your throne and worship You. We worship You.

O come desire of nations, bind all peoples in heart and mind.

Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease. Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

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Third Lesson: A Promised Ruler from Bethlehem

Micah 5: 2-5a

Song – O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,

and praises sing go God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n;

so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,

where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend on 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!

Phillips Brooks, Lewis Redner, arr. Don Chapman © 2005 Hearts to God Music, CCLI# 1374588

Fourth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Carol – O How Joyfully

O how joyfully, O how blessedly, grace comes to us at Christmastime!
God to us has given blessings from heaven.
Sing for joy, sing for joy at Christmastime!

O how joyfully, O how blessedly, grace comes to us at Christmastime!
Heaven's hosts in the sky sing rejoicing from on high;
Sing for joy, sing for joy at Christmastime.
Sing for joy, sing at Christmastime!

Trad. German Carol; arr. by John Leavitt.

Fifth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2: 1-7

Song – Away in a Manger

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.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Draw near, Lord Jesus, draw near to me and make me clean.
Draw near, Lord Jesus draw near to me.
Draw near Lord Jesus, draw near to me.

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.

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Sixth Lesson: The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2: 8-16

Carol – Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Ding dong! Merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing!
Ding dong, verily the sky, is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo, gloria Deo, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o! by priest and people sungen.
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo, gloria Deo, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo, gloria Deo, Hosanna in excelsis!
Ding dong gloria Deo!

Trad. French carol, arr. by John Leavitt.

Seventh Lesson: The Visit of the Magi

Matthew 2: 1-11

Song – God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God, our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
Let all the earth rejoice!
Comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
Let all the earth rejoice!

God rest ye merry, gentlemen; let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!
Comfort and joy!

Traditional English Carol; arr. Dan Galbraith © 2005 PraiseCharts. CCLI# 1374588

Eighth Lesson: The Escape to Egypt

Matthew 2: 13-18

Carol – Coventry Carol

Lullay Thou little tiny Child, by, by lully, lullay;
Lullay, thou little tiny Child, by, by, lully, lullay.

O sister, too, how may we do, for to preserve this day;
This poor Youngling for whom we sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

Herod the King, in his raging, charged he hath this day;
His men of might, in his own sight, all children young, to slay.
Then woe is me, poor Child, for Thee, and ever mourn and say;
For Thy parting nor say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

English melody; Robert Croo, arr. by John Leavitt.

Ninth Lesson: The Word Became Flesh

John 1: 1-14

Carol – Only Begotten, Word of God Eternal

Only begotten, Word of God eternal Lord of Creation, merciful and mighty,
Hear us your servants as our tuneful voices rise in Your presence.
Holy, this temple where our Lord is dwelling; this is none other than the gate of heaven
Ever your children year by year rejoicing chant in Your temple.
God in three Persons, Father everlasting, Son co-eternal, ever blessed Spirit:
To You be praises, thanks and adoration, Glory forever, glory hallelujah!

Text from Bern, 9th Century; Maxwell J. Blacker; John Leavitt.

Closing Prayers

Song – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time, behold Him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Charles Wesley; Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Don Chapman © 2002 Hearts to God Music CCLI# 1374588

Sharing Our Peace and Offerings

What to know this week ...

Copies of the January/February Upper Room are now available in the lobby and the back of the sanctuary.

In keeping with our theme for Advent: God Is Near, we have daily scripture readings, a song to click and play/sing, and a prayer focus for the week. Please use this season to draw near to God, and enjoy the scripture and music! Devotions are posted a week at a time on the church website: www.stjumc.us.

Get involved! We still have openings for our December 19 Live Nativity cast and crew. Please consider sharing your time with the community to bring the birth of Christ to life! Sign up here: www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-live1

The UMW is offering honorary and memorial luminaries this Christmas. Luminaries will line the walkway in front of the church and burn Christmas Eve 5:30-9:00pm. To place an order, you can find the order form on the lobby table, in the December newsletter or online at www.stjumc.us/members. The cost for each luminary is \$3; please make checks payable to St. James UMW. Forms and payments can be left in the offering baskets or dropped in the office door drop.

*Christmas Eve Services: 6:00PM Christmas Under the Trees
7:30PM Sanctuary Worship*

Both of our in-person Christmas Eve services will include communion and candlelighting. Online worship will be available for those who are not able to participate in in-person worship.

Food Pantry Needs for Advent: spaghetti sauce (plastic jar or can), jelly (plastic container), 2 lb. rice (usually available at Dollar Tree), canned fruit