

December 26, 2021
Sanctuary Worship, 11:00AM

Welcome to worship today!

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



Call to Worship

Leader: Behold, the Morning Star of heaven;

People: Among beasts of the earth he is stabled.

Leader: The all-seeing eyes have closed in sleep.

People: The fullness of eternity is sealed in skin.

Leader: He who cradled all worlds is himself cradled in a mother's arms.

People: Behold, the one true God is one of us.

Hymn – He Is Born

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.

Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;

Thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!

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.

O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;

O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind!

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.

Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,

Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace.

UMH 228. Traditional 18th-19th cent. French carol.

Hymn – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!

Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

UMH 224. 14th cent. Latin, trans. by John Mason Neale; German melody; harm by Gary Alan Smith: © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer

(To share your joys and concerns, please text them to Kim at 919-624-1404.)

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.

Prayer Response:

**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.**

Choir Anthem – Tidings of Comfort

Carl J. Nygard, Jr. ©1990 Hinshaw Music, Inc. CCLI# 1374588.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the eternal Deity in whose mind was born the plan of salvation; in whose heart was born a love for humankind. We believe in the incarnate Deity born in humble station amid the lowing animals, a light in the darkness, the promise of hope to the world. We believe in the inspiring Deity, bringing life to the womb of Mary, giving a song to the angel chorus, proclaiming good news to the shepherds of Bethlehem. We believe in the God who was, is and ever shall be; the same yesterday, today and forever; before Bethlehem, at Bethlehem, beyond Bethlehem, forever, world without end. Amen.

Hymn – Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

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.

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!

UMH 239, vv. 1, 3, 4. Joseph Mohr; Franz Gruber.

Scripture Lesson – Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from heaven! Praise God on the heights!

Praise God, all of you who are his messengers! Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!

Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!

You highest heaven, praise God! Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

Let all of these praise the Lord's name because God gave the command and they were created!

God set them in place always and forever. God made a law that will not be broken.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!

Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke, stormy wind that does what God says!

Do the same, you mountains, every single hill, fruit trees, and every single cedar!

Do the same, you animals—wild or tame—you creatures that creep along and you birds that fly!

Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person, you princes and every single ruler on earth!

Do the same, you young men—young women too!—you who are old together with you who are young!

Let all of these praise the Lord's name because only God's name is high over all.

Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.

God raised the strength of his people, the praise of all his faithful ones—that's the Israelites, the people who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

Message – When All Else Fails ... Praise

Hymn – *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;

Late in time behold him come; offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,

Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

UMH 240. Charles Wesley, alt. by George Whitefield and others; Felix Mendelssohn, arr. by William H. Cummings.

Blessing & Sending Out

Sharing Our Offerings

Out to Praise God!

What to know this week...

Holiday schedule: please note that the church office will be closed on December 27, 28 & 30 for the Christmas/New Year holidays. The office will be open on Wednesday, December 29.

Contributions for 2021 must be postmarked or brought to the church office by (Friday) December 31, 2021 to be included on 2021 giving statements.

Worship services on January 2 will follow our usual schedule: 9AM Common Thread worship in Carson Hall, on the patio, or in your cars; 11AM worship in the sanctuary. Masks are still required for all inside worshipers.

You are invited to prepare a card or note for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day! If you bring your card or note to the church office by January 5, we will deliver them for you! Take a moment to show appreciation for the hard work undertaken by these public servants. Thank you!

Food Pantry Needs this week: canned pasta dishes like ravioli or beefaroni, peanut butter, canned fruit, hearty soups like Progresso, 12-15 oz. boxes of cereal