



WHITEHOUSE UMC

...to love, serve, and share Christ

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CHRISTMAS EVE—DECEMBER 24, 2020—6:00 PM

WELCOME

PRELUDE

†LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Advent hope moves us; Advent hope leads us; Advent joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled, our love is consummated, our joy is complete, and our peace is sealed.

Rejoice, a Savior is born!

A Savior is born indeed! Joy to the world!

†SUNG RESPONSE: *Until Jesus comes, until Jesus come, I'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.*

"Until Jesus Comes" – words & music by Dean McIntrye ©2005 The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church CCLI #1550924

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

†HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful vv. 1-3, 6

UMH 234

*O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born the King of angel;*

*True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not
the Virgin's womb.
Son of the Father,
begotten, not created;*

*Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
O sing all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest;*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be
all glory given.
Word of the Father,
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.

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" - words by John F. Wade, trans. by Frederick Oakeley and others; music by John F. Wade, harm. from *Collections of Motets or Antiphons* CCLI #1550924

†AFFIRMATION

Christmas Affirmation

by Nathan Nettleton

**We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth,
who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love,
and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again,
encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ.

Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light
and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God,
a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth! Amen.

†RESPONSE

The Gloria Patri

UMH 70

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

"Glory be to the Father" – words *Lesser Doxology*; music by Charles Meineke CCLI #1550924

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Trey Burns

SPECIAL MUSIC

For All Time

Linda Compton, soloist

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CLI #1550924

OFFERING MOMENT & †DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" – words by Thomas Ken, adapt. By Gilbert H. Viera;

music from *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, hamr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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†HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

*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!"*

*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 Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

*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!"

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" - words by Charles Wesley, alt. by George Whitefield et al; music by Felix Mendelssohn, arr. by William H. Cummings
CCLI #1550924

†THE NATIVITY STORY

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was 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 to be registered 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 place for them in the inn.

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 the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

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 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.

This is the word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and who seek to live in peace with God and with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned.

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we make no room for Christ, and fail to welcome him into our lives,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we follow shooting stars and squander our gifts in Herod's court,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we sanitize your birth place and erase from memory the poor and displaced,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth, and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

We turn to you, O Christ, perfect union of Spirit and flesh;

We renounce evil; we claim your love; we choose to be made whole. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's love knows no bounds. Love comes down at Christmas—a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Know that this love is come for you—to touch you, to heal you, to forgive you, to make you whole.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery under sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD & GIVING THE CUP

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,. Amen.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

†HYMN

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
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!

Silent Night, Holy Night
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.

UMH 239
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!

"Silent Night, Holy Night" - words by Joseph Mohr, alt.; vv. 1-3 trans. by John F. Young, v. 4 trans. anon.; music by Franz Gruber

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†BENEDICTION

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth, bring joy to your hearts this day and always. Amen.
May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace. Amen.
May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations, until he brings you into his kingdom. Amen.
And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit bless us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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PRAYER LIST

- The Weavers, Sandra Walton, Gage Hendley, Kristen Longfellow, Janice Dupree, Jason Krob, Ryan Baron, The Wilkes, Our Schools, Our Country
The Loros, Brenda Caps, Lauren Lawler, Guy De LaMarter, Joyce Bammes, Luke Shaeffer, Bri Benoit, Harold Marshall, Matt Lockwood, Our church family
Michael Robinson, Betty Garner, Cindy North, Teresa Mitchum Hughes, The Lintners, Gene Ruelle, Carolyn & Patrick McClain, Bobbie Akers, Members of our military, Our elected officials
Michael Lavender, Bert Gardner, Kelly Kea, Paul Rider, Hannah Dintelman, Our Community, First Responders, Our Schools

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget our Christmas/End-of-Year Offering, which this year is benefiting Lakeview Methodist Camp and the TJC Wesley Foundation (Methodist campus ministry). Help us show some support for these two wonderful ministries!

There will be no in-person worship service this coming Sunday, December 27. We will have a service video posted on our Facebook page and church website at 9:30 that morning.

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