

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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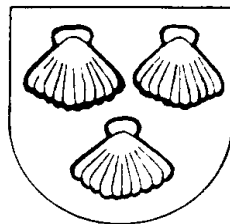


December 24, 2021
8:00 pm

“What a Gift!”

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj | Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark
Director of Music Ministry: Antuan Hairston | Organist: Clarice Snyder
Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



Saint James United Methodist Church
Marriottsville, MD

WE GATHER

Prelude

“From Heaven Above, to Earth I Come” arr. by J. G. Walther, J. Pachelbel

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“Angels We Have Heard on High” arr. by Charles W. Ore

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome

Threshold Moment

“Love Came Down”

UMH 242

Verse 1

Love came down at Christmas
Love all lovely Love divine
Love was born at Christmas
Star and angels gave the sign

Verse 2

Worship we the Godhead
Love incarnate Love divine
Worship we our Jesus
But wherewith for sacred sign

Verse 3

Love shall be our token
Love be yours and love be mine
Love to God and all men
Love for plea and gift and sign

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Bidding Prayer

Debra Bostron

ONE: Tonight we light five candles:

As we have lit the candle of **hope**, we pray for those who feel hopeless . . .

As we have lit the candle of **love**, we pray for those who do not feel loved, for those who struggle to love others . . .

As we have lit the candle of **joy**, we pray for those whose hearts are weighed down by sorrow...

As we have lit the candle of **peace**, we pray for all victims of violence . . .

... Unto us this night is born a savior who is Christ, the child of the Holy One. This one IS the source of your hope, love, joy, and peace. The world has never been the same since this friend, teacher, savior, lover-of-us-all came into the world..

So we light Candle of Incarnate Joy, which means Joy-Made-Flesh.

The message we receive is that EVERY time a baby is born... indeed when YOU were born... God's joy is made flesh, made real, made tangible in this world!

ALL: God-with-Us, Emmanuel, we open ourselves to you this night, to become those who help to shine that light of Christ wherever we are—in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world. Fill us with your peace and light, make the world full of joy, hope and love. These prayers we do humbly offer to you, O God, with the words that Christ has taught us...

The Lord's Prayer

Opening Hymn

"Joy to the World"

UMH 246

Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Verse 2

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods rock hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

Verse 4

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

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Scripture 1

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 A Great Light

Debra Bostron

- ² ^[a] The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.
- ³ You have made the nation great;
you have increased its joy.
They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.
- ⁴ As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,
the staff on their shoulders,
and the rod of their oppressor.
- ⁵ Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned, fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ A child is born to us, a son is given to us,
and authority will be on his shoulders.

He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ There will be vast authority and endless peace
for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it
with justice and righteousness
now and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of heavenly forces will do this.

Response

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7)

UMH 211

Verses 1 and 4 will be sung by Emily Anderson, Patrick Lyons, and Antuan Hairston

Verse 5

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free,
And conquer death's deep misery.

Refrain

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

Verse 6

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thy justice here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Verse 7

O come, Desire of nations bind
All people in one heart and mind
From dust thou brought is forth to life;
Deliver us from earthly strife.

Refrain

Refrain

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Scripture 2

John 1:1-5 Light for All People

Barbara Cook

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
² The Word was with God in the beginning.
³ Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.
What came into being
⁴ through the Word was life, [\[a\]](#)
and the life was the light for all people.
⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

Verse 1

Of the Father's love begotten
 Ere the world began to be
 He is Alpha and Omega
 He the source the ending He
 Of the things that are that have been
 And that future years shall see
 Evermore and evermore

Verse 2

O ye heights of heaven adore him
 Angel hosts his praises sing
 Powers dominions bow before him
 And extol our God and King
 Let no tongue on earth be silent
 Every voice in concert ring
 Evermore and evermore

Verse 3

Christ to Thee with God the Father
 And O Holy Ghost to Thee
 Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
 And unwearied praises be
 Honor glory and dominion and eternal victory
 Evermore and evermore

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Scripture 3**Luke 1:26-38** Mary and Angel**Mary Anne Espenshade**

²⁶ When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹ Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³ He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. ³⁶ Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Response**"Canticle of the Turning"**

Offered by Antuan Hairston, Rev. Patricia Abell and Clarice Snyder

Scripture 4

Matthew 1:18-24 Joseph and Angel

Jim Quindlen

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

²³ *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel.*^[a] (*Emmanuel* means "God with us.")

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife.

Response

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH 204

Emmanuel Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel

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Bob McGee
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Scripture 5

Luke 2:1-5 To Bethlehem

Debra Bostron

² In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

Response

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH 230

Verse 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

Verse 2

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 to God the King
And peace to all on earth

Verse 3

How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

Verse 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

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Scripture 6

Luke 2:6-7 The Birth of Jesus

Barbara Cook

⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ 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.

Response

“Somewhere in Your Silent Night”

Offered by Emily Anderson and Clarice Snyder

Arranged by John Mark Hall

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Scripture 7

Luke 2:8-14 Shepherds and Angels

Mary Anne Espenshade

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.

¹¹ Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

Response

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Offered by Susan Day, flute and Clarice Snyder

Arranged by Brant Adams

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Scripture 8

Luke 2:15-20 Shepherds to Bethlehem and Back

Jim Quindlen

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ They went quickly and found

Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Response

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

UMH 240

Verse 1

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 hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 2

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
Please with us in flesh to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 3

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

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Message

“What a Gift!”

Rev. Patricia Abell

A Time for Giving

Doxology

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (chorus only)

UMH 238

Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

Closing Candlelight Hymn

“Silent Night”

UMH 239

Verse 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

Verse 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

Verse 2

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Verse 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

Benediction

Postlude

“Joy to the World; From Heaven Above” arr. Wilber Held

Offered by Clarice Snyder