

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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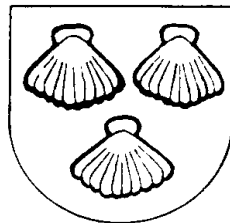


December 24, 2021

4:00 pm

“What a Gift”

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

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

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Bidding Prayer

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 **peace**, we pray for all victims of violence . . .

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 **love**, we pray for those who do not feel loved, for those who struggle to love others . . .

... and now we light one candle to represent the presence of God's **light** coming into the world through Jesus Christ.

This season, these candles have reminded us of the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

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 so calm and bright.
These prayers we do humbly offer to you, O God, with the words that Christ has taught us...**

Lord's Prayer

A Cookie Moment

Small Gingerbread Person

Rev. Patricia Abell

Opening Hymn

“Joy to the World” (vs. 1 & 2)

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

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Scripture 1**A Baby is Born Luke 2: 1-7****Eddie Candee**

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. 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.

Hymn

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

UMH 229**Verse 1**

Infant holy infant lowly
 For His bed a cattle stall
 Oxen lowing little knowing
 Christ the babe is Lord of all
 Swift are winging angels singing
 Noels ringing tidings bringing
 Christ the babe is Lord of all

Verse 2

Flocks were sleeping shepherds keeping
 Vigil till the morning new
 Saw the glory heard the story
 Tidings of a gospel true
 Thus rejoicing free from sorrow
 Praises voicing greet the morrow
 Christ the babe was born for you.

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 Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed
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Scripture 2**Shepherds and Angels Luke 2: 8-14****Eddie Candee**

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."

Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

UMH 238**Verse 1**

Angels we have heard on high
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains
 And the mountains in reply
 Echoing their joyous strains

Refrain

Gloria
 In excelsis Deo
 Gloria
 In excelsis Deo

Verse 2

Shepherds why this jubilee
 Why your joyous strains prolong
 What the gladsome tidings be
 Which inspire your heav'nly song

Refrain**Verse 3**

Come to Bethlehem and see
 Christ whose birth the angels praise
 Come adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord the newborn King

Refrain**Verse 4**

See Him in a manger laid
 Whom the choirs of angels praise
 Mary Joseph lend your aid
 While our hearts in love we raise

Refrain

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Scripture 3**Shepherds in Bethlehem Luke 2: 15-20*****Edie Candee***

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.

Hymn**“Away in a Manger”*****UMH 217*****Verse 1**

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
 The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

Verse 2

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
 But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes
 I love thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh

Verse 3

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
 Close by me forever and love me I pray
 Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
 And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

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Message

“What a Gift!”

Rev. Patricia Abell

Hymn

“The Friendly Beasts” (see lyric sheet)

UMH 227

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Offering

to support the Board of Child Care

Offertory

“Drummer Boy” (see lyric sheet)

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 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 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 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

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Benediction

Postlude

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

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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