

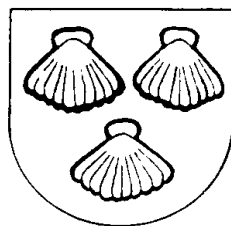
SJUMC Worship Guide

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December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve
4:00 pm
“Sacred Being”
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 "Partita on "Irby" Once in Royal David's City John A. Behke
Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome *Rev. Patricia Abell*

Introit "Love Came Down" **UMH 242**

1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
2. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
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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Crossing the Threshold *reflecting on the sacred* **Rev. Patricia Abell**

Sung Response Come and Find the Quiet Center **TFWS 2128**

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter find the frame where we are freed.
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be

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Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

We pray for Hope this night.
We pray for Hope this night.
We pray for Love this night.
We pray for Love this night.
We pray for Joy this night.
We pray for Joy this night.
We pray for Peace this night.
We pray for Peace this night.
We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.
We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.
We open to see our deepest selves

We open to see our deepest selves
as a gift of holy presence.
as a gift of holy presence.
This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,
This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,
lighting the way to peace.
lighting the way to peace.

Congregational Chorus Come and Find the Quiet Center **TFWS 2128**
Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter find the frame where we are freed.
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.

Prayer **Pastor Pat**
Living God, Christ Mystery, Holy Spirit,
we give you thanks for this holy sensing of your presence.
As we take in the light you offer, may we be a reflection of that light,
expanding the sacred being of this place into the sacred being of all things.
Amen.

Opening Hymn "Joy to the World" **UMH 246**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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 | 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 |
| 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 | 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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Time for Children **Rev. Patricia Abell**

The Story Reflected **Luke 2: 1-20** **Rev. Patricia Abell**

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1) **UMH 230**

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.

Reader 1: Around the time of Elizabeth’s amazing pregnancy and John’s birth, the emperor in Rome, Caesar Augustus, required everyone in the Roman Empire to participate in a massive census—the first census since Quirinius had become governor of Syria. Each person had to go to his or her ancestral city to be counted.

Mary’s fiancé Joseph, from Nazareth in Galilee, had to participate in the census in the same way everyone else did. Because he was a descendant of King David, his ancestral city was Bethlehem, David’s birthplace. Mary, who was now late in her pregnancy that the messenger Gabriel had predicted, accompanied Joseph.

While in Bethlehem, she went into labor and gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped the baby in a blanket and laid Him in a feeding trough because the inn had no room for them.

Hymn

“Away in a Manger” (vs. 1)

UMH 217

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

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Reader 2: Nearby, in the fields outside of Bethlehem, a group of shepherds were guarding their flocks from predators in the darkness of night. Suddenly a messenger of the Lord stood in front of them, and the darkness was replaced by a glorious light—the shining light of God’s glory. They were terrified!

Hymn

“The First Noel” (vs. 1 & 2)

UMH 245

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep
Noel, noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

2. The looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
Noel, noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

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Reader 3: Don't be afraid! Listen! I bring good news, news of great joy, news that will affect all people everywhere. Today, in the city of David, a Liberator has been born for you! He is the promised Anointed One, the Supreme Authority! You will know you have found Him when you see a baby, wrapped in a blanket, lying in a feeding trough.

At that moment, the first heavenly messenger was joined by thousands of other messengers—a vast heavenly choir. They praised God.

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Vs. 1, 2 & 3)

UMH 238

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

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

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

Refrain

Refrain

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Reader 3: As soon as the heavenly messengers disappeared into heaven, the shepherds were buzzing with conversation. Let's rush down to Bethlehem right now! Let's see what's happening! Let's experience what the Lord has told us about!

Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1 & 4)

UMH 234

1. O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

Chorus
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

4. See how the shepherds
Summoned to his cradle
Leaving their flocks draw nigh to gaze
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps

Chorus
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

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Reader 4: So they ran into town, and eventually they found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the feeding trough. After they saw the baby, they spread the story of what they had experienced and what had been said to them about this child. Everyone who heard their story couldn't stop thinking about its meaning. Mary, too, pondered all of these events, treasuring each memory in her heart. The shepherds returned to their flocks, praising God for all they had seen and heard, and they glorified God for the way the experience had unfolded just as the heavenly messenger had predicted.

Hymn

"What Child Is This" (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

UMH 219

1. What Child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christians fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

3. So bring Him incense gold and myrrh
Come peasant king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him

This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe the Son of Mary

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Pastor: This is the story reflecting the light of goodness that God has created—the light that we are called to reflect in our own lives, for each other, and for all the world. Let the people say "Amen!" **"Amen!"**

Message

"Sacred Being"

Rev. Patricia Abell

Prayer

We are wells of the sacred. God's presence is poured into creation in a never-ending flow of love. We enter a time of prayer that invites us to be refilled in ways that can help us pour out our love throughout the week. All we must do in this moment is open our hearts to the Holy One.

Choral Call to Prayer

"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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Continued Prayer

God of glory, by your grace *Isa. 9:2–7*
a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests on his shoulders,
and in his name we pray.

Wonderful Counselor,
**we pray for wisdom for the world’s leaders,
that they may use their power to lift burdens
and break the bonds of oppression.**

Mighty God,
**we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord,
that you will multiply and increase our joy
as we share in the harvest you have gathered.**

Everlasting Father,
**we pray for families, friends, and loved ones,
that those who now walk in deep darkness
may see the great light of your saving love.**

Prince of Peace,
**we pray for an end to violence and warfare,
that your authority may continue to grow
until there is endless peace in every land.**

Lord of hosts, establish your holy realm
with justice and righteousness,
from this time on and forevermore. **Amen.**

Offering **Christmas Eve offering is dedicated to the Board of Child Care.**

***Doxology** *(sung to the tune of “What Child Is This”)*

UMH 219

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God all heavens and the earth reflecting the sacred story.
This, this is Christ the One who mirrors love for all of us.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Word of time eternal.

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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

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

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

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” Wilber Held

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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This is a night for treasuring and pondering (Luke 2:19) the gift and mystery of Christ’s incarnation. How is it possible, why is it necessary, and what does it mean for God to be a human infant, and for a human infant to be God?

Household Prayer: Morning

O Lord, I will sing you a new song today; *Ps. 96:1–2, 11–13*
 with all the earth I will bless your name.
 I will smile with the heavens and rejoice with the earth;
 with the trees of the forest I will sing for joy,
 for you have come to save us. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Though I walk in darkness, O Lord, *Isa. 9:2; Luke 2:9*
 I will not be afraid—
 for I know that the morning will come,
 and the great light of your glory
 will shine all around me;
 through Jesus, the light of the world. Amen

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*Please stand as able