SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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**December 24, 2022**

**Christmas Eve**

**8:00 pm**

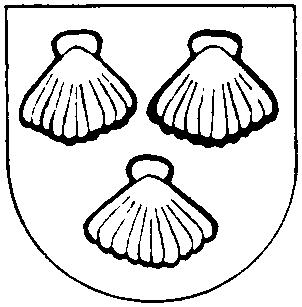
**“Sacred Being”**

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

[](about:blank)

Saint James United Methodist Church

Marriottsville, MD

WE GATHER

**Prelude** “Born to Bethlehem” Helmut Walcha (Public Domain)

“Whom the Shepherds Praised”  Helmut Walcha (Public Domain)

“SussexCarol”  Russell Schulz-Widmar Copyright 1978, 1985 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

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“Angelus ad Virginem”  John Fries

**Offered by Susan Day, Flute; Clarice Snyder, Organ**

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“Noel Provencal”  Leon Roques (Public Domain)

***Offered by Clarice Snyder***

**Welcome *Rev. Patricia Abell***

**Threshold Moment** “Love Came Down” (vs. 1) ***UMH 242***

1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

CCLI Song # 276338

Christina Georgina Rossetti | David Evans

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Music: Oxford University Press

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**Crossing the Threshold** *reflecting on the sacred*  ***Rev. Patricia Abell***

**Threshold** “Love Came Down” (vs. 2)  ***UMH 242***

2. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;  
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

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**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

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** “Love Came Down” (vs. 3)  ***UMH 242***

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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**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 2. Joy to the earth the Savior reigns  
Let earth receive her King Let men their songs employ  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room While fields and floods rock hills and plains  
And heav'n and nature sing Repeat the sounding joy  
And heav'n and nature sing Repeat the sounding joy  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing Repeat repeat the sounding joy

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow 4. He rules the world with truth and grace

Nor thorns infest the ground And makes the nations prove

He comes to make his blessings flow The glories of his righteousness

Far as the curse is found And wonders of his love

Far as the curse is found And wonders of his love

Far as far as the curse is found And wonders wonders of his love

CCLI Song # 24016

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts

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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.

CCLI Song # 27879

Lewis Henry Redner | Phillips Brooks

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***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.

**Music Offering** “Coventry Carol/Away in a Manger” ***Offered by Jane Ohlmacher***

Arranged by Cindy Barry

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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 2. The looked up and saw a star  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay Shining in the east beyond them far  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep And to the earth it gave great light  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep And so it continued both day and night

Noel, noel, noel, noel Noel, noel, noel, noel

Born is the King of Israel Born is the King of Israel

CCLI Song # 31047

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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.

**Music Offering** “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/Make We Joy” ***Recorder Ensemble***

***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 4. See how the shepherds  
Joyful and triumphant Summoned to his cradle  
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem Leaving their flocks draw nigh to gaze  
Come and behold Him We too will thither  
Born the King of angels Bend our joyful footsteps

**Chorus Chorus**

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

CCLI Song # 31054

C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade

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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 2. Why lies He in such mean estate  
On Mary's lap is sleeping Where ox and ass are feeding  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet Good Christians fear for sinners here  
While shepherds watch are keeping The silent Word is pleading  
This this is Christ the King This this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste haste to bring Him laud Haste haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe the Son of Mary 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

CCLI Song # 30983

Unknown | William Chatterton Dix

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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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**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 burdensand break the bonds of oppression.**

Mighty God,

**we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord,that you will multiply and increase our joyas 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 darknessmay 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 growuntil 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.

CCLI Song # 30983

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**\*Closing Hymn** “Silent Night” ***UMH 239*** with “A Night of Silence” ***Chancel Choir***

1. Silent night holy night 2. Silent night holy night  
All is calm all is bright Shepherds quake at the sight  
Round yon virgin mother and Child Glories stream from heaven afar  
Holy Infant so tender and mild Heav’nly hosts sing alleluia  
Sleep in heavenly peace Christ the Savior is born  
Sleep in heavenly peace Christ the Savior is born

3. Silent night holy night 4. Silent night holy night  
Son of God love's pure light Wondrous star lend thy light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the angels let us sing  
With the dawn of redeeming grace Alleluia to our King  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth Christ the Savior is born  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth Christ the Savior is born

CCLI Song # 27862

Franz Xaver Gruber | John Freeman Young | Joseph Mohr

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Night of Silence Daniel Kantor

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**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**  “Night of Silence” Daniel Kantor

***Offered by Susan Day, flute, Clarice Snyder, piano***

Night of Silence Daniel Kantor

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12470 Old Frederick Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104

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?

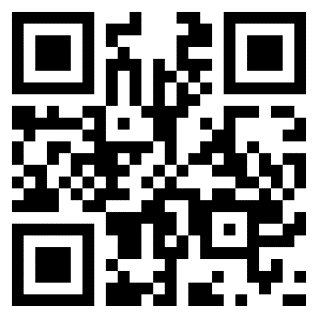
***Household Prayer: Morning***

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 glorywill shine all around me;through Jesus, the light of the world. Amen

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