SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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**December 24, 2023**

**Christmas Eve**

**4:00 pm**

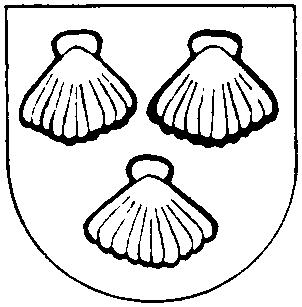
**“What a Gift!”**

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**  “Adeste Fideles” and “A Child is Born” Philip G Kreckel ***Offered by Clarice Snyder***

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**Welcome *Rev. Patricia Abell***

**Gathering Song**  “What Can I Give Him?”

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a Wise One, I would do my part;

Yet what can I give Him? I will give my heart.

Words by Christina Rosetti (1830–1894)Adapted by Jean Anne Shafferman

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**Becoming Present - The Advent Ritual *Barbara Cook***

Liturgist:We have unwrapped a present on each Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gifts that God reveals.

***People:* We open our hearts as we open the gifts!**

“What Can I Give Him?” (see lyrics above)

**Prayer of Presence *Barbara Cook***

**Holy Living God,**

**you are our Light.**

**Let this light grow in our lives each day,**

**so we can be a Present of Light to others.**

**Unwrap and open our hearts.**

**May it be so.**

**Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Passing the Peace**

**Opening Hymn** “Joy to the World” (vs. 1 & 2) ***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

CCLI Song # 24016

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts

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

**Hymn** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” ***UMH 229***

1. Infant holy infant lowly 2. Flocks were sleeping shepherds keeping  
For His bed a cattle stall Vigil till the morning new  
Oxen lowing little knowing Saw the glory heard the story  
Christ the babe is Lord of all Tidings of a gospel true  
Swift are winging angels singing Thus rejoicing free from sorrow  
Noels ringing tidings bringing Praises voicing greet the morrow  
Christ the babe is Lord of all Christ the babe was born for you.

CCLI Song # 162538

Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed

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**Scripture 2Luke 2: 8-14 Shepherds and Angels**

**Hymn** “Angels We Have Heard on High” ***UMH 238***

**Refrain**

1. Angels we have heard on high Gloria   
Sweetly singing o'er the plains In excelsis Deo  
And the mountains in reply Gloria  
Echoing their joyous strains In excelsis Deo

2. Shepherds why this jubilee 3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Why your joyous strains prolong Christ whose birth the angels sing  
What the gladsome tidings be Come adore on bended knee  
Which inspire your heav'nly song Christ the Lord the newborn King

**Refrain Refrain**

CCLI Song # 27721

Edward Shippen Barnes | Harmony by Austin C. Lovelace

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Harmony © 1964 Abingdon Press

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

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

1. Away in a manger no crib for a bed 2. The cattle are lowing the baby awakes  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay I love thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh

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

CCLI Song # 2922951

James Ramsey Murray

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**Message** “What a Gift!” ***Rev. Patricia Abell***

**Hymn** “The Friendly Beasts” (see lyric sheet)

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

**Offertory** “Drummer Boy”

**\*Doxology**   “Doxology for Advent” (Tune: Veni Emmanuel)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee O Israel

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674 Music: 15th Century French

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship,   
P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.uncworship.org>

Email address: [music@gbod.org](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain

**Offering Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**  “Silent Night” ***UMH 239***

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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**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** “Sweet Little Jesus Boy”  Robert MacGimsey arr. by Mark Hayes

**Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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***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.

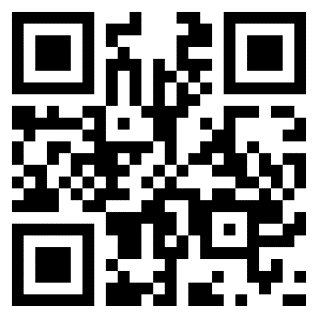
***Household Prayer: Evening***

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

RESOURCES:

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*Saint James UMC is a Lighthouse Congregation of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.*