SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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**December 24, 2023**

**9:30 am**

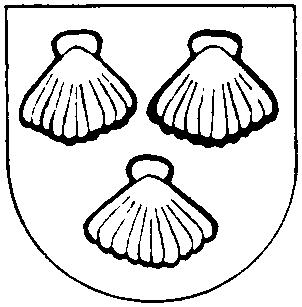
**“What a Gift!”**

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

[](about:blank)

Saint James United Methodist Church

Marriottsville, MD

410-442-2020

**We Celebrate Our Presence Together: Gathering**

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

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**Welcome *Rev. Patricia Abell***

**Introit** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ***Handbell Choir***

Lewis H. Redner, arranged by Allan Robert Petke

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

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 *Austin Morse***

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!**

Liturgist:The gift of hope is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word. The gift of Christ’s peace reminds us that we can have peace even in the midst of non-peaceful situations. The gift of joy is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep call to delight in the small things. The gift of love is the clarion call to us as Jesus’ disciples. The more love we put into the world, the better the world will be. And today we celebrate the presence of the Light among us.

I invite you to stand as you are comfortable and face the light as it comes into our midst from the back.

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

**Prayer of Presence *Austin Morse***

**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.**

**Passing the Peace**

**\*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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**The Word Present Among Us: Proclaiming**

**Children’s Moment *Donna Benson, Jelinda Blum, Edie Candee*, *Jane Ohlmacher***

**Hymn**  “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” ***UMH 251***Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain 1. While shepherds kept their watching  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere O’er silent flocks by night  
Go tell it on the mountain Behold throughout the heavens  
That Jesus Christ is born There shone a holy light

2. The shepherds feared and trembled 3. Down in a lowly manger  
When lo above the earth The humble Christ was born  
Rang out the angel chorus And God sent us salvation  
That hailed the Savior's birth That blessed Christmas morn

CCLI Song # 3063235

John W. Work Jr. | William Farley Smith

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Music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

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**Scripture**  **Isaiah 9: 2-8** ***Mary Anne Espenshade***

The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light —

**upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining!** God, you have made the nation greater — you have brought them abundant joy! **They celebrate in your presence as with the harvest celebrations…** For a child is born to us, an heir is given us,

**upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.**

This One shall be called:

**Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God,**

**Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.**

This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end,

**with David’s throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness, now and forever.**

**Anthem** “Peace, Peace” ***Chancel and* *Handbell Choir*** Words and Music by Rick and Sylvia Powell

Arranged by Fred Bock

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**Scripture Luke 2: 1-14 Shepherds and Angels *Austin Morse***

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

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**

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**

CCLI Song # 27721

Edward Shippen Barnes | Harmony by Austin C. Lovelace

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Harmony © 1964 Abingdon Press

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**Scripture Luke 2: 15-20 Shepherds in Bethlehem *Mary Anne Espenshade***

**Hymn** “What Child Is This” ***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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**Message** “What a Gift!” ***Rev. Patricia Abell***

**Anthem** “What Can I Give Him?”  ***Chancel Choir***

***Susan Day, Flute; Jane Ohlmacher, Clarinet***

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

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**Fully Present in the Moment: Praying**

**Prayer of the People, Church & World *Rev. Patricia Abell***

“Right Here, Right Now”

Right here and right now we open our senses

to see and perceive the gifts we’ve been given,

to know and believe that what we must do

is open our hearts to let all gifts flow through.

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

**Offertory** “Carol of the Bells” ***Handbell Choir***

Mykolo Leontovich, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner (ASCAP)

©1983 by Agape, Carol Stream, Illinois 60187

**\*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 domapn

**Offering Prayer**

**Present to the World: Sending Forth**

**\*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 *Rev. Patricia Abell***

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

**Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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***Questions for Reflection***

Who was a gift of presence to you this week? How did you offer yourself as a gift of presence?

What could you do this coming week that would allow God’s gift of Hope to flow through you to someone else?

***Household Prayer: Morning***

Holy Living Light of God,

you are our Joyful Presence.

Let this joy grow in our lives each day,

so we can be a Present of Joy to others.

Unwrap and open our hearts.

May it be so.

Amen.

***Household Prayer: Evening***

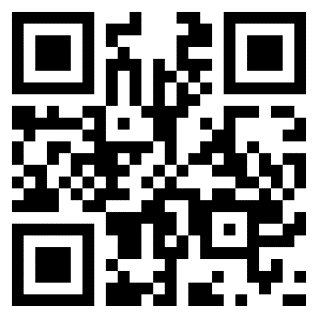
Thank you, Lord, for the gifts and challenges of this day.Where I failed to do your will, forgive me .Grant me peace throughout this night, and if I should die,welcome me into your glory with all the saints in light; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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RESOURCES:

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