

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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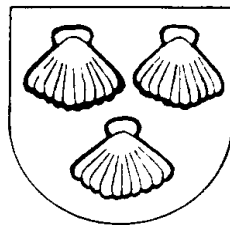


**December 24, 2024**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**4:00 pm**

## WORSHIP SERVICE

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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** “Do You Hear What I Hear?” Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne arranged by Mark Hayes

**Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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**Welcome**

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

**Gathering Song**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (vs. 1)

**UMH 196**

1. Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

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Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard

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**Ritual of Light and Bidding Prayer**

**Barbara Cook**

Liturgist: We have lighted a candle on each Sunday of Advent focused on preparation, passion, presence, and promise for the gift that God has for us.

**People: We open our hearts as we light each candle!**

**Gathering Song**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (vs. 3) **not in hymnal**

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
by His life He brings us gladness,  
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
born within a cattle stall;  
this the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

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**Opening Prayer**

**Barbara Cook**

**ALL: God-with-Us, Emmanuel, we open ourselves to you this night, to become those who help to shine the 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 full of joy, hope and love. Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Barbara Cook**

**Passing the Peace**

**Barbara Cook**

**Opening Hymn**

“Joy to the World” (vs. 1 & 2)

**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

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**Scripture 1**

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

**Barbara Cook**

**Special Music**

“Mary Had a Boy Child” by Jester Hairston

**Reena Deberry**

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**Scripture 2**

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

**Barbara Cook**

**Hymn**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**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 sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn King

**Refrain**

**Refrain**

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

"Away in a Manger"

**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

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

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**

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

**UMH 229**

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

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

"The Friendly Beasts" (see screen)

**Tune based on UMH 227****Chorus 1**

Jesus our brother kind and good  
 Was humbly born in a stable rude  
 And the friendly beasts around Him stood  
 Jesus our brother kind and good

1. "I" said the donkey shaggy and brown  
 "I" carried His mother up hill and down  
 "I" carried His mother to Bethlehem town  
 "I" said the donkey shaggy and brown

2. "I" said the cow all white and red  
"I gave Him my manger for His bed  
"I gave Him my hay to pillow His head  
"I" said the cow all white and red

### **Chorus 2**

Jesus our brother kind and good  
Was humbly born in a stable rude  
And the friendly beasts around Him stood  
Jesus our brother kind and good

3. "I" said the sheep with the curly horn  
"I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm  
"He wore my coat on Christmas morn  
"I" said the sheep with the curly horn

4. "I" said the MOUSE from the STABLE FLOOR  
"I" Sang Him to sleep, I COULD HEAR HIM SNORE  
"I" Sang Him to sleep AND I HEARD HIM SNORE  
"I" said the MOUSE from the STABLE FLOOR

5. "I" said the dove from the rafters high  
"I cooed Him to sleep that He would not cry  
"We cooed Him to sleep my mate and I  
"I" said the dove from the rafters high

### **Chorus 3**

Thus every beast by some good spell  
In the stable dark was glad to tell  
Of the gift GIVEN TO Emmanuel  
The gift Given TO Emmanuel

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### **\*Doxology**

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God All creatures here below  
Alleluia alleluia  
Praise God the source of all our gifts  
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts  
Praise the Spirit Holy Spirit  
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

**UMH 94**

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### **Offering Prayer**

### **\*Closing Hymn**

"Silent Night"

**UMH 239**

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

“Christmas Hymn” Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith arranged by Mark Hayes

**Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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## Questions for Reflection

Who was a gift of JOY & LIGHT to you this week? How did you offer yourself as a gift of JOY & LIGHT?  
What could you do this coming week that would allow God’s gift of JOY & LIGHT to shine 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 Gift of Joy & Light 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 wake me with the dawn's bright light.

And if I should die before I wake, welcome me into your glory with all the saints in light; in Jesus’ name.  
Amen.

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