

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

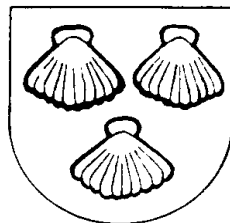
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December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve
7:00 pm

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 "Carols from Six Carol Settings for Organ" by Wilbur Held **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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Call to Worship **Mary Anne Espenshade**

For you who are filled to the brim with happiness,
Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.
For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends,
Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.
For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness,
Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.
For you who rest in gratitude and contentment,
Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.
For you who feel the ache of loneliness,
Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.
For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful companionship,
Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.
Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!
Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!

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.

Ritual of Light and Bidding Prayer

Mary Anne Espenshade

Liturgist: The message we receive is that EVERY time a baby is born... indeed when YOU were born...
God's joy is made flesh, made real, made tangible in this world!

**ALL: God-with-Us, Emmanuel, we open ourselves to you this night,
to become those who help to shine that 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.

These prayers we do humbly offer to you, O God, with the words that Christ has taught us...

Lord's Prayer

Mary Anne Espenshade

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

Scripture

A Great Light

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Mary Anne Espenshade

Response: This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

"O Holy Night"

Reena Deberry, soloist

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The Story Reflected Hymn

Luke 2: 1-20
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1)

Rev. Patricia Abell
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.

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Scripture

Luke 2: 1-7

Music Offering “Somewhere In Your Silent Night” John Mark Hall, Bernard Herms and Matthew West
Austin Morse and Emily Anderson, vocalists

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Scripture

Luke 2: 8-9

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. They 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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Scripture

Luke 2: 10-14

Music Offering “All Is Well” by Michael W. Smith and Wayne Kirkpatrick ***Reena Deberry, Soloist***

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Scripture

Luke 2: 15

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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Scripture

Luke 2: 16-20

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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Message

“The Gift of Joy Incarnate”

Rev. Patricia Abell

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
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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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 "Meditation on Lo, how a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. by Clarice Snyder

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Questions for Reflection

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 Ps. 96:1–2, 11–13

O Lord, I will sing you a new song today;
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 Isa. 9:2; Luke 2:9

Though I walk in darkness, O Lord,
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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