

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

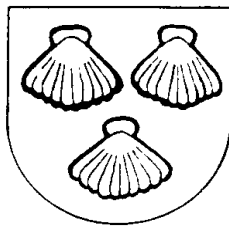
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**December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve
4:00 pm**

WORSHIP SERVICE

Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj		Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark
Director of Music Ministry: Kelli Young		Organist: Clarice Snyder
Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell		



Saint James United Methodist Church
Marriottsville, MD

WE GATHER

Prelude

“Gloria and Greensleeves” arr. Charles W. Ore

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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Welcome

Rev. Patricia Abell

Bidding Prayer

ONE: Tonight we light five candles:

As we light the candle of **hope**, we pray for those who feel hopeless . . .

As we light the candle of **peace**, we pray for all victims of violence . . .

As we light the candle of **joy**, we pray for those whose hearts are weighed down by sorrow...

As we light the candle of **love**, we pray for those who do not feel loved, for those who struggle to love others .

. .

... and now we light one candle to represent the presence of God's **light** through Jesus Christ.

This season, these candles have reminded us of the joy that comes with the dawn of a new thing God is doing in the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

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 joy in all our seasons that we may be hopeful, loving, and peaceful, even when joy is elusive. These prayers we do humbly offer to you, O God, with the words that Christ has taught us...

Lord's Prayer

Nancy Janson

Opening Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1 & 2)

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

2. True God of true God
Light from Light Eternal
Lo he shuns not the Virgin's womb
Son of the Father
Begotten not created

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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C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade

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Scripture 1

Luke 2: 1-7 A Baby is Born

Nancy Janson

Hymn

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

UMH 229

1. Infant holy infant lowly
For His bed a cattle stall

2. Flocks were sleeping shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new

*Please stand as able

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

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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Scripture 2

Luke 2: 8-14 Shepherds and Angels

Nancy Janson

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

2. Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song

Refrain

Refrain

Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Refrain

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Scripture 3

Luke 2: 15 - 20 Shepherds in Bethlehem

Nancy Janson

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 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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James Ramsey Murray
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Message

"What a Gift!...The Christmas Mouse"

Rev. Patricia Abell**Hymn**

"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

CCLI Song # 7127098

Hal Wright | Karen Mitzo Hilderbrand | Kim Mitzo Thompson

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Offering**Christmas Eve offering is dedicated to Everstand (formerly Board of Child Care).****Offertory****"The Little Drummer Boy"**

Katherine Kennicott Davis 1941

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

4. Silent night holy night
Wondrous star lend thy light
With the angels let us sing

*Please stand as able

With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

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*Benediction

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 all 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

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George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts
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Postlude

“Joy to the World” arr. Wilbur Held

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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