

SJUMC Online Worship Guide

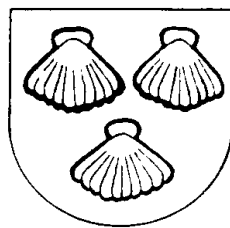
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December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve
7:00 pm

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*

Threshold Moment "Love Came Down" (vs. 1) *UMH 242*

1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Words: Christina G. Rossetti, 1885
Music: Trad. Irish melody; harm. By David Evans, 1927, alt.
Harm. by permission of Oxford University Press

Crossing the Threshold

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!

Threshold Song "Love Came Down" (vs. 2) *UMH 242*

2. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

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Ritual of Light *Mary Anne Espenshade*

We pray for Hope this night.
We pray for PEACE this night.
We pray for Joy this night.
We pray for LOVE this night.

We pray for Hope this night.
We pray for PEACE this night.
We pray for Joy this night.
We pray for LOVE this night.

We open to see the HOLY reflected in all things.
We open to see our deepest selves
as a gift of holy presence.
This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,
lighting the way to peace.

**We open to see the HOLY reflected in all things.
We open to see our deepest selves
as a gift of holy presence.
This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,
lighting the way to peace.**

Threshold Song

“Love Came Down” (vs. 3)

UMH 242

3. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina G. Rossetti, 1885
Music: Trad. Irish melody; harm. By David Evans, 1927, alt.
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Prayer

Rev. Patricia Abell

**Living God, Christ Mystery, Holy Spirit,
we give you thanks for this holy sensing of your presence.
As we take in the light you offer, may we be a reflection of that light,
expanding the HOLY of this place into the HOLY of all things.
Amen.**

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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The Story Reflected

Luke 2: 1-20

Rev. Patricia Abell

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1)

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.

Reading 1

Mary Anne Espenshade

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

Reading 2

Mary Anne Espenshade

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

Reading 3

Mary Anne Espenshade

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

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

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

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Reading 4

Mary Anne Espenshade

Hymn

1. There's a star in the East
On Christmas morn
Rise up shepherd and follow
It will lead to the place
Where Christ was born
Rise up shepherd and follow
Follow follow rise up shepherd and follow
Follow the star of Bethlehem
Rise up shepherd and follow

"Rise Up Shepherds and Follow"

TFWS 2096

2. If you take good heed
to the angels words
Rise up shepherd and follow
You'll forget your flocks
You'll forget your herds
Rise up shepherd and follow
Follow follow rise up shepherd and follow
Follow the star of Bethlehem
Rise up shepherd and follow

African American spiritual

Reading 5

Mary Anne Espenshade

Hymn

1. Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today
Ox and ass before him bow
And he is in the manger now
Christ is born today Christ is born today

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (vs, 1, 2 & 3)

UMH 224

2. Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye hear of endless bliss: News! News!
Jesus Christ was born for this
He hath opened heaven's door
And ye are blest forevermore
Christ was born for this Christ was born for this

3. Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye need not fear the grave: News! News!
Jesus Christ was born to save
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall
Christ was born to save Christ was born to save

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John Mason Neale
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Message

"Holy Being – Love Came Down"

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 Everstand (formerly 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

Anointed as Holy

*Please stand as able

*Closing Hymn

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

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

"Silent Night"

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

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

CCLI Song # 27862

Franz Xaver Gruber | John Freeman Young | Joseph Mohr

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UMH 239

*Benediction

Hymn

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

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

"Joy to the World"

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

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

CCLI Song # 24016

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts

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UMH 246

Postlude

"Joy to the World" arr. Wilbur Held

Offered by Clarice Snyder

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*Please stand as able