

Christmas Eve



December 24, 2017
11:00 a.m.



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GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

Asterisks (*) indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.

OPENING MUSIC

INTROIT

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the world's began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source,
the ending he of the things that are,
that have been and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore. Amen.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, trans. John Mason Neale and Henry W. Baker

* CALL TO WORSHIP

On this night, Christ is born!

Now the Savior has appeared!

On this night, the heavenly chorus resounds!

All creation rejoices!

On this night, the church throughout the world joins their cry:

Glory to God in the highest!

Alleluia!

* OPENING CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O sing, all ye
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, Je - sus, to



come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold him, born the King of
cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the
thee be all glo - ry given. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap -



an - gels; O come, let us a - dore him, O come let us a -
high - est;
pear - ing:



dore him, O come let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade; translation by Frederick Oakeley and others

Music: ADESTE FIDELES; present form of melody attributed to John Francis Wade; harmonization The English Hymnal, 1906

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

“While they were there,
the time came for her to deliver her child.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth
and laid him in a manger.”

Luke 2:6-7

Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies;
well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love;
animals and shepherds crowd in tight,
glowing with adoration,
while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

**Tonight we give thanks for every child among us.
Each new birth – regardless of circumstances –
reminds us of the preciousness of life,
the potential of tomorrow,
the promise of God.**

On this Christmas Eve,
we light the Christ candle for the child-King,
the infant-Redeemer,
the lowly-Lord.
And now we know...
He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

* CAROL 229

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Stanza 1

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Introduction

In baptism,

God names us as God’s own beloved children;
God promises to be our God
and welcomes us into the family of Christ;
God makes Christ’s death and resurrection for us
present to us and at work in us.

The baptism of believers’ children especially makes visible
the prevenient nature of grace—
that God reaches out to, and accepts, us
before we reach out to, and accept, God.

At the same time, in baptism,
we acknowledge for ourselves and our children
the gift and claim of God’s grace,
and we commit ourselves and our children
to live out of God’s grace as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.
Thus, baptism marks the birth, at any age,
of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Presentation

Who is presented for baptism?
Samuel Manuel and Jaden Esanjo Pires Turner
Sons of João Pires and Rebecca Turner

Parents' Re-Affirmation of Faith

Because the role of parents and the church is crucial
to a child's experience of grace,
we ask you to re-commit yourselves
to the vows of the baptismal covenant:

Do you re-affirm your renunciation of sin
and your confession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior,
putting your whole trust in his grace,
and promising to serve him as your Lord,
by loving others as Christ loved you
and resisting evil, injustice, and oppression?

We do.

Do you commit yourself to work for God's reign on earth
through the church, which Christ has opened to all people,
participating actively in its ministries
with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

We do.

Will you nurture your children in Christ's Church,
that by your teaching and example,
they may grow to know the grace of God,
profess their faith in Christ openly,
and live as faithful disciples of Christ's church?

We will.

Congregation's Response

Do you as Christ's church reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture these children in the Christian faith and life,
praying for them, teaching them, and leading them
in acts of service and mission?

We will.

Baptism with the Laying On of Hands

Anointing with Oil

Following the biblical custom of anointing prophets (I Kings 19:36), priests (Exodus 29:7) and kings (I Kings 1:39), candidates are anointed at their baptism as a reminder that all Christians share in the royal, prophetic, priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.

Presentation of the Baptismal Candle

A candle, lighted from the Paschal Candle, is presented to the newly baptized to signify that the light of the One who overcame the darkness of sin and death now shines in his or her life.

Welcome of the Newly Baptized

Samuel and Jaden,

**we give thanks that God has claimed you
with an everlasting love that will never, ever let you go;
and we will never let you forget that!**

**We rejoice to welcome you as our brothers
in the family of Christ.**

Our story is now your story:

**you have ridden in the ark with Noah;
you have passed through the sea with Moses;
Christ's death and resurrection for you is at work in you,
transforming you into the image of God.**

**Grow with us in grace,
confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his royal priesthood.**

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
Truly he taught us to love one another;
his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

John Sullivan Dwight

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

LUKE 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

All sing:

**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.**

LUKE 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

All sing:

**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.**

LUKE 2:8-12

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see— I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

All sing:

**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.**

LUKE 2:13-14

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

All sing:

**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!**

LUKE 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

All sing, standing:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing.

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 the curse is found.

WELCOME

SERMON

Christmas Bells

Taylor Fuerst

FEASTING AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

You are invited to meet the Christ Child in the Holy Feast and there to have your deepest hunger satisfied. Everyone, without exception, is invited to come to the Lord's Table. You don't have to be a member of this church to come, but no one should feel pressured.

PRAYER

Then all prayerfully sing:



O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and
en - ter in, be born in us to - day. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the
great glad ti - dings tell; O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks

Music: ST. LOUIS - Lewis H. Redner

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

To our guests: Your presence today is itself a gift to God and to this church. Please do not feel obligated to make an offering. We believe that all we have and all we are is a gift from God, and so we give joyfully to participate in God's good work in the world. If you would like to support the ongoing ministry of First United Methodist Church, simply place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you would like to join our Christmas Offering to support the Lydia Patterson Institute, be sure to use the "Christmas Offering" envelope located in your pew or write "Christmas Offering" on your gift.

OFFERTORY

Once In Royal David's City

H. J. Gauntlett / Arr. David Willcocks

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high.
Where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

C. F. Alexander

*** PRESENTATION SONG** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;
praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: Thomas Ken and William C. Dix, alt.

Music: GREENSLEEVES - 16th cent. English melody

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks for the gift of the Christ Child and the mystery of the Incarnation.

And so, we bow in holy splendor before the wonder of your incarnation
and join with the heavenly host in their unending hymn,
praising and glorifying you, singing:

Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power,
 and the glory, forever.
 Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

We will commune by "intinction," i.e., the minister will place the bread in your open hand, saying, "The body of Christ given for you," to which you respond, "Amen." You will then move to the server with the cup, dip the bread lightly in the cup, and eat.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Silent Night, Holy Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Words: Joseph Mohr, alt. stanzas 1, 2, 3, translated by John F. Young; stanza 4 translated unknown

Music: STILLE NACHT - Franz Gruber

240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

230 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Stanzas 2 and 3

219 What Child Is This

GOING FORTH

* BENEDICTION

* CLOSING CAROL 246

Joy to the World

+ + +

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist

Reverend Cathy Stone

Advent Candle Lighters

Bryan, Suzanne, Hart, and Breck Black

Soloist

Albert Garcia

Music Director/Organist

Scott Davis

NEXT SUNDAY

First Sunday After Christmas

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Preacher

Reverend Michael Mumme

Sermon

The Cosmic Christ

Scripture

Colossians 1:9-23a