

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols 2020



*We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice! -Madeleine L'Engle*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Offerings sent in this evening through our website will go out from our church to help the ministries of Act in Faith, a local social work agency that our church helped to found, and Man of Peace Ministry, a mission in Ecuador started by a daughter of our church, Amber Allen. Thank you for your generous gifts.

OFFERING MUSIC

See Amid the Winter Snow

arr. Sharon Wilson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this most magical night, when angels and shepherds mingle and the birth of a baby changes the world.

We come to celebrate with joy and wonder.

Celebrate the light that shines all around us.

We will sing and praise our most wondrous God.

Let us kneel before the Christ child, who makes God's promises come true.

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

no. 234, vs. 1-3

**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;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

**True God of true god, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rev. Allen Keller

Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent joy stirs us;

Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts.

He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled;

our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed. Rejoice, a Savior is born.

A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

Today all are joined together as one family through the miracle of the birth of one small baby.

Let us share our joy and excitement at being present when God reaches down to touch the earth.

Let us reach out and touch each other in love incarnate. Share with those in your household a handshake, hug, or kiss.

Take the time to sign our online attendance at umcwc.org/live-streaming. Following the service, see our Christmas greetings to one another on our website.

MUSIC

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR THOSE IN NEED

Let us remember those for whom life is hard this Christmas- the hungry, the poor, those in ill health, those who mourn, those that are away from their families, and those who do not know the love of Christ. Offer silent prayers for them throughout the service.

Service of Lessons and Carols

First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

Cory Smith

"The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown."

Anthem

Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Second Lesson

Micah 5:1-4

Kelly Lynn

"The prophet foretells the glory of little Bethlehem."

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

no. 230, verse 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.**

Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Mike Muzzo

"The birth of Jesus."

Carol

Joy to the World

no. 246, verse 1, 2

**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 heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Excerpt from *"Do Not Be Afraid"*

"The shepherds go to Bethlehem."

Duet

Were You There on That Christmas Night?

Natalie Sleeth

Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-5, 14

Rev. Molly Dee Rounsley

"The Word became flesh."

The fifth lesson is read in the midst of the people, symbolizing the incarnation of the Word of God:

"The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us."

PRAYER

Immanuel, God-with-us, open our eyes to the wonder of this night. Soften our hearts to the message of this hour. Though we are at home, apart from one another, unite us by the intimate power of your Holy Spirit. Open our minds to truly listen for your voice as it comes from within and echoes all around us. Fill our spirits with the courage to admit that our world is lost and in Christ we have been found. Immanuel, God-with-us, be born in us today.

May your light shine through us today and always. Amen.

PASSING THE LIGHT

CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

no. 239

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

(Raise Candles on Third Verse)

**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.**

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts that the God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens, and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted his Son to the care of ordinary people and became vulnerable that we might know how strong is the wonder of Love

A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp. A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

arr. Zachau

Bold text indicates congregational response

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Message: Rev. Truman Brooks

Liturgists: Rev. Molly Dee Rounsley,

Rev. Allen Keller

Minister of Worship and Music: Mike Muzzo

Organist: Steve Campitelli

Carillon Choir Director: Dan Rotz

Candlelight String Quartet:

Serena Cohen, 1 violin; Jonas Yoder, 2 violin;

Jhonnatan Mata, viola;

Stephanie Campitelli, cello

Vocal Solo: Richard Troxell

Vocal Duet: Victoria Frederiksen and Louise Sims

Anthem: Grace and Mike Muzzo and members of
the Carillon Choir

Silent Night and Vocal Solo Producer:

Laura Raybourn

Video Production: John and Sally Rusk of
RaybournRusk

Live Stream Producer and Videographer:

Cory Smith