



**December 24, 2021
5:00 and 7:00 PM**

*Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

If you are our guest tonight, we are grateful that you chose to spend Christmas Eve with us. Whether you came at the invitation of a friend, saw one of our announcements, came back after a long time away, or just wandered in, we are thankful for you. We are glad that you are here and we hope that you feel our welcome in everything we do. We also want you to know that you are always welcome back here to worship with us.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude *Away In a Manger* Murray
The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

The Christmas Story and Lighting the Christ Candle

5:00pm – Susan Whitman

7:00pm – Carolyn and Guy Masters

Hymn (See last page) *Angels We Have Heard on High* UMH 238

Prayer Dan Ensor/Tina Wilmoth

Hymn (See last page) *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UMH 230

A Time for Children Pastor Debra

Evening Prayer Pastor Debra

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying)

Dan Ensor/Tina Wilmoth

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Gospel of John 1:1-14

Dan Ensor/Tina Wilmoth

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christmas Meditation

Pastor Debra

Invitation to the Offering

Dan Ensor/Tina Wilmoth

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

What Child Is This?

English Melody

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Offertory Prayer of Dedication*

Dan Ensor/Tina Wilmoth

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Sacrament of Communion

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time

you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior,

and at his birth the angels sang

glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem

and there found no room,

so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born,

so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago,
so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.
Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (All Praying)

Dan Ensor/Tina Wilmoth

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen

Ministry of Music

O, Holy Night

Meghan Walker

GOING FORTH WITH JOY

***Sharing of the Light**

In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

Let there be light.

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us.

And the Word was the light of all people.

Let there be light.

We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.

Let there be light.

We light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shines through the babe born in Bethlehem and became the Redeemer of all.

Let there be light.

May we be so emboldened as to share the love of God with a world longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions and generosity shine in a world under the shadow of despair.

Let there be light.

We join the chorus of those whose carols have echoed through the years- "O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel."

Let there be light.

Please tip your candle to the lighted candle. Children may break their glow sticks at this time.

***CHRISTMAS HYMN** (See last page) *Silent Night, Holy Night*

UMH 239

Please extinguish candles after the singing of the hymn.

As you leave, please place the candle in the narthex.

***BENEDICTION**

As we go from our worship this night: May the joy of the angels sing in our voices; May the hope of the shepherds enliven our minds; May the strong faith of Mary strengthen our spirits; And may the love of the Baby shine in our hearts. God's blessings be upon you all, this holy night and for

***POSTLUDE**

Joy to the World

Handel

Merry Christmas!

It is our hope and prayer that the Christmas spirit kindled among us during this time of gathering, once more, around Bethlehem's manger will live within us throughout the coming year.

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.*

Refrain:

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? (**Refrain**)*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (**Refrain**)*

*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**)*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*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.*

*For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.*

*O morning stars together,
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth!*

*How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!*

Silent Night, Holy Night

*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!*

*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, 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!*