



**Order of Worship
December 26, 2021
The First Sunday after Christmas Day
10:00 AM**

*10:00 Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

Today, the day after Christmas, we continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our service is one of scripture and hymns, or Christmas Carols. The scriptures and accompanying narrative are the Christmas message, and there is therefore no sermon.

This service has a variety of carols. While you are encouraged to sing, it can be rather meaningful to some people to just listen to one or to even a few of the carols, especially those that you find unfamiliar. We are glad that you are here and hope you enjoy your worship experience.

Welcome and Announcements

Steve Evick
Willis

Prelude

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

The Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Elizabeth Gaucher

Like the shepherds, we come to the stable,
uncertain of what we have heard and seen,
longing to hear a word of peace and joy.

Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make,
gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts,
that this world can change for the better.

Here, in the stillness of a Sabbath morning,

we gather to share the light of Christ,
a light that shines for us all.

**We gather in the wonder of this season
to share our joy and thanks for new life.**

***Carol** (See last page)

Joy to the World
Verses 1, 2, and 4

UMH 246

Children's Time

Quinn Hetherington

Joys and Concerns with Bidding Prayer

Steve Evick

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; **for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our community.**

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; **the sick and them that mourn, the lovely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.**

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, **that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.**

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Jamie Gaucher

Eternal God, as your Word is proclaimed through the scriptures that are read, let us hear with joy the story of your loving purposes from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. Amen.

A Savior from Bethlehem

Micah 5:2-5

Jamie Gaucher

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace

Carol (See last page)

What Child Is This

UMH 219

The Isaiah Prophecy

Isaiah 9:6-7

Margaret Humphreys

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David’s throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

Carol (See last page)

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
Verses 1 and 2

UMH 216

The Birth of Jesus as Told by Matthew

Matthew 1:18-24

Tom Gatewood

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be

married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[c] because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us.”)

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

The Magi Visit the Messiah

Matthew 2:1-12

Ric Humphreys

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Birth of Jesus as Told by Luke

Luke 2:1-7

Ken Alexander

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Ministry of Music

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Abigail Winn

The Angels and the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Offertory Invitation

Steve Evick

The prophet Isaiah remembers so many things God has done for the people out of the abundance of God's steadfast love. God continues to bless the world with abundance, and we share our gifts today out of that abundance in the hope that this church will be a blessing to the world. Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God.

Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

The Coventry Carol

*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!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Steve Evick

God of great wonders, we join with you in the joy of this season of giving, You gave us a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. You give us life and breath, you fill the world with beauty,

our hands with bounty, and our hearts with the desire to give. Accept these gifts, and ourselves in service always, in every season. Amen.

***The Apostles' Creed**

Elizabeth Gaucher

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Mary and Joseph Take Jesus to the Temple

Luke 2:21-24

Jamie Gaucher

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Jesus Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Carol (See last page)

Once in Royal David's City

UMH 250

The Story of Simeon and Anna

Luke 2:25-38

Margaret Humphreys

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[b] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Carol (See last page)

*Love Came Down at Christmas
Verses 1 and 2*

UMH 242

The Christmas Story Concludes

Luke 2:39-40

Ric Humphreys

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

***Carol** (See last page)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

***Closing Prayer**

Steve Evick

Lord, you call us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Fill our words with power that we may proclaim your good news and draw all people to you. Amen.

***Benediction**

Steve Evick

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

***Postlude**

O Come All Ye Faithful

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

JOY TO THE WORLD

*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.*

*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.*

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

*What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping? **Refrain***

*Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. **Refrain***

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. **Refrain***

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

THE FIRST NOEL

Refrain:

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

*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.*

*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. **(Refrain)***

*And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. **[Refrain]***

*This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;*

*and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]*

*Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]*

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

*Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving 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.*

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

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

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

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain:

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light. **(Refrain)***

*The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth. **(Refrain)***

*Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **(Refrain)***