

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
CHRISTMAS EVE | DECEMBER 24, 2022

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

The Birthday of a King, arr. Bob Krogstad Michael O'Hearn, soloist Noon
Night of Miracles Opening Chorus, John W. Peterson Chancel Choir 4 PM
The Birthday of a King, arr. Phil Perkins Justin Maxey, piano 11 PM

OPENING PRAYER

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence and **People**
Associate Minister

Gracious God,
With joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.
We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.
In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts
that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.
Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.
Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts,
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors."
This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. **Amen.**

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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;

Refrain:

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;
Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest;
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
WORD of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
Refrain

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jerry and Margaret Whitaker **and People** Noon
Matthew and Kelly Coldiron Family **and People** 4 PM
Brian and Nancy Lindsey **and People** 11 PM

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 light the fire of the Christ Candle,
for a light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

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!

A SERVICE OF WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Lawrence

Lord, open our minds and hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear and rejoice in the gospel of our Savior's birth, told in story and song this night. Amen.

THE WORD OF PROMISE

Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Lawrence

*CAROL

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*The first Nowell 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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

*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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

*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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

*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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

*Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath brought:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Rev. Lawrence

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night, Adolphe Adam Sam Burch, soloist Noon
Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling, Hector Berlioz Chancel Choir, Bastien Millo Conductor 4 PM
O Holy Night, Adolphe Adam Brian Lindsey, soloist 11 PM

***DOXOLOGY**

GREENSLEEVES

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Come and See

Dr. Martin

CAROL

O Holy Night, Adolphe Adam Sam Burch, soloist 4 PM

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION, CONFESSION, WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Minister and People

We come to the table of our Lord recognizing our need for divine grace.
In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Merciful God,

we confess that we are not who we should be
We set our minds on human things—
we long for the security from our possessions;
we prefer our own comfort;

Forgive us, we pray.

May our sense of self preservation be disturbed by your Son's example;
that we might take up his cross in service to the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing ...

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 ...

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 ...

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

As is always the case in the United Methodist Church, all worshipers are invited to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. The ushers will direct you to one of our stations. There you will be offered the bread and juice. Simply receive the wafer and dip it lightly into the cup. Then return to your seat by way of the outside aisle. Gluten-free and individually wrapped elements are available at the prayer rail.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

See following pages.

A SERVICE OF LIGHT

CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

As we sing "Silent Night," the ushers will receive the light from the pastors and light the candle of each person sitting on the aisle. That person will light the next candle and so on down the row until all the candles are lighted. For the sake of safety, please light your candle by tilting the unlighted candle to the lighted one.

CAROL

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

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.

***CAROL**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

***BENEDICTION**

Dr. Martin and **People**

Dear God,

Grant your gracious benediction in our hearts and homes this night, rejoicing with the members of the early church who recorded that the darkness is past, and the true light now shines.
Amen.

Please extinguish candles.

***POSTLUDE**

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella
arr. Keith Chapman

Mr. Justin Maxey Noon, 4 PM
Director of Music & Organist

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

CONGREGATIONAL MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

NOON | 11 PM

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

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

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

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!

AWAY IN A MANGER

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.

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CHANCEL CHOIR MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

4 PM

THE BIRTHDAY OF A KING ARR. BOB KROGSTAD

Michael O'Hearn, soloist

NO ROOM AND SLEEP, HOLY CHILD FROM NIGHT OF MIRACLES, JOHN W. PETERSON

Nancy Lindsey, soloist

No room only a manger of hay; no room He is a stranger today;
No room here in His world turned away; no room, no room;
No room here in the hearts of mankind; no room no cheery welcome could find;
No room surely the world is blind, no room.

Angels in heaven up yonder, watch with amazement and wonder,
To see the Son of the Highest treated so;
No room only a manger of hay; no room He is a stranger today;
No room here in His world turned away; no room, no room, no room.

Sleep holy Child for Thou art safe in Heaven's keeping,
Angels hover near, and they are here to guard Thy sleeping;
Shadows of the night will in the morning light be gone,
Sleep holy Child, so meek and mild, sleep on.

At Thy crib we find faith and hope have shined;
Beaming, their light is beaming, gleaming to all mankind.
Sleep holy Child, tonight with Thee our hopes all rest,
Matchless is Thy worth, for in Thy birth the earth is blest.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY 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, 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, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as He.

For He 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.



FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

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CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY SCHEDULE

Christmas Day Service: 11:00 AM

Epiphany Sunday/New Year's Day: 11:00 AM

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Regular worship schedule resumes January 8

Sunday Worship: 8:45 AM Sanctuary

Sunday School: 9:45 AM

Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM Sanctuary and Online

PLEASE NOTE

Find worship links for online services at FayettevilleFirst.com.

Online Giving: onrealm.org/FFUMC/give or use QR code below.

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;

Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meetings: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

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