

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS EVE | DECEMBER 24, 2023

11 AM 6 PM 11 PM

MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

Nicholas Bowden, Director of Music & Organist 11 AM

Christmas Selections listed under Special Notes Chancel Choir & Orchestra 5:30 PM

INTROIT: *Carol of the Bells*, arr. Peter J. Wilhousky Chancel Choir 6 PM

Nicholas Bowden, Director of Music & Organist 11 PM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

OPENING PRAYER

Dr. Martin and **People**

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

The Thomas Martin Family and People 11 AM

Danny and Julie Beck and People 6 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!

***CAROL**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*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!*

*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!*

A SERVICE OF WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence and People
Associate Minister

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**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Rev. Lawrence

OFFERTORY

Carol of the Bells, arr. Peter J. Wilhousky Chancel Choir 11 AM
For Unto Us a Child Is Born, from **Messiah**, G.F. Handel Chancel Choir 6 PM
The Birthday of a King, W.H. Neidlinger Michael O'Hearn, Bass 11 PM

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100th

**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. Amen.**

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Jesus Is With Us

Dr. Martin

CAROL

O Holy Night
Adolphe Adam

Brian Lindsey, soloist 11 AM
Sam Burch, soloist 6 PM
Brian Lindsey, soloist 11 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.

Away in a Manger
arr. Mack Wilberg

Chancel Choir 6 PM
Caleb Rotz, soloist

*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.*

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.*

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.**

*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.*

Please extinguish candles.

***POSTLUDE**

Toccata from **Symphony No. 5**, Charles- Marie Vidor Mr. Bowden 11 AM, 6 PM
Mr. Bowden 11 PM

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

CONGREGATIONAL MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

THE FIRST NOEL

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!

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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, 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:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

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!

SPECIAL NOTES

The special music at the 6 PM service is dedicated to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for the ministry of Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin and for his family.

ORCHESTRA & SPECIAL MUSIC 6 PM

Coventry Carol, arr. Mark Hayes Sam Burch, Baritone
A Savior From on High, Stephen Paulus Chancel Choir, Joy Rotz, Soprano, Anne Gregory, Flute
Brightest and Best, Shawn Kirchner Chancel Choir
Sweet Little Jesus Boy, arr. Joel Raney Luanne Harms, Mezzo-Soprano
Aria, Nicholas Bowden Carolyn Hancock, Solo Violin

Carolyn Hancock, Violin
Bryan Hall, Violin
Roberto Henriquez, Viola
Ray Kim, Cello

Karl Fenner, Bass
Christian Kilgore, Timpani/Percussion
Anne Gregory, Flute
Nicholas Reynolds, Piano

CHURCH CONCERNS

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Carol Partridge and family upon the death of her husband, Rev. Bob Partridge, on December 14.
David and Courtney Anderson upon the death of their baby daughter, Lennox Anderson, on
December 15. Family includes Bobby and Kathe Anderson, David's parents.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are presented to the glory of God
by James Watkins in memory of his wife, Theresa (Sib), for her birthday.

FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

Scan the CONNECT QR code below and let us know you're here!
Get current news in The Weekender, our weekly e-newsletter, by signing up using the QR code below.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31 | New Year's Eve
One service at 11:00 AM
The Rev. Charles Robinson

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 7, 2024
Regular worship schedule
Sunday Worship: 8:45 AM Chapel
Churchwide Potluck Breakfast
Welcome Rev. Kaylen Short and Rev. Drew West: 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM Sanctuary and Online
The Rev. Kaylen Short, Senior Minister

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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