

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS EVE | DECEMBER 24, 2025

4:00 PM 6:00 PM

MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

Nicholas Bowden, Minister of Music

Carolyn Hancock, Violin; Cain-Oscar Bergeron, Flute
Nicholas Bowden, Organ

INTROIT

Carol of the Bells

The Chancel Choir

arr. Peter J. Whilhousky

A SERVICE OF WORD

THE WORD OF PROMISE

Luke 2:1-7

The Rev. Kaylen Short
Senior Minister

*PROCESSIONAL 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!

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee with love and awe.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
(Refrain)

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
(Refrain)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Kaylen Short
Senior Minister

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Short

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Luanne Harms, Faye Moulton **and People** 4:00 PM

The Alexanders **and People** 6:00 PM

Tonight, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah:

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:6-7).

We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.

We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.

THE WORD OF PROMISE

Luke 2:8-14

The Rev. Charles Robinson
Minister of Nuture

*CAROL

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Verse 1, Ethan Rotz

Verse 2, The Rotz Family

Verses 3 & 4 (Printed), Congregation

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

The Rev. Drew West
Minister of Families and Children

OFFERTORY

Sing we now of Christmas
Arr. Howard Helvey

NOEL NOUVELET
Chancel Choir
Marty Alexander, Organist

*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 WORD OF PROMISE

Luke 2:15-20

Rev. West

***CAROL**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

MENDELSSOHN

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!

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Rev. Short

CAROL

O Holy Night
Adolphe Adam

Madalyn Mentor, soloist 4:00 PM
Sam Burch, soloist 6:00 PM

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION, CONFESSION, WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Ministers 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 bread and dip it lightly into the cup. Then return to your seat by way of the outside aisle. Gluten-free elements are available at the altar and in the narthex.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

See last page.

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

The Chancel Choir

*How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first cry?
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

*Shepherds and wisemen will kneel and adore him. Seraphim round him their vigil will keep.
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior; Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

*Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger; Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation; a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

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

Rev. Short

Please extinguish candles following Benediction.

*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.

POSTLUDE

Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella

Mr. Bowden

Arr. Keith Chapman

*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!

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, 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, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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!"

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 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:45 AM – FFUMC Chapel
11:00 AM – FFUMC Sanctuary
Message by Rev. Charles Robinson

EPIPHANY SUNDAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

8:45 AM – FFUMC Chapel
Message by Rev. Kaylen Short
10:00 AM – Churchwide Potluck Breakfast
Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM – FFUMC Sanctuary
Message by Rev. Kaylen Short

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, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays 7:30 AM

NA Meetings: Thursdays 7 PM

QR Code to
CONNECT



QR Code for
WEEKENDER



QR Code for
GIVING



FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
175 East Lanier Avenue, Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313 fayettevillefirst.com
