

The background of the entire page is a night sky filled with stars and a colorful nebula. In the lower center, there is a silhouette of a manger with a thatched roof. Inside the manger, a small silhouette of a baby is visible.

Christmas Eve

**Fayetteville First
United Methodist Church**
December 24, 2020

FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Eve 2020

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

CALL TO WORSHIP

Birthday of a King
Sam Burch, soloist

W. H. Neidlinger

OPENING PRAYER

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;

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

A SERVICE OF WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Martin

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

Dr. Martin

*CAROL

Away in a Manger

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.

THE WORD OF ADORATION

Luke 2:8-20

Dr. Martin

CAROL

Christmas Bringeth Jesus
Ensemble

Christina Rosetti, David Lantz III

Christmas hath darkness brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chilliness warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus, brought for us so low.

Gloria, for Christmas bringeth Jesus, brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music, birds that sing and bells that ring:
Heaven hath answering music for all angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus, brought for us so low.

Gloria, for Christmas bringeth Jesus, born for us so low.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Best Christmas Ever

Dr. Martin

CAROL

O Holy Night
Brian Lindsey, soloist

Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Hayes

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.

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. You may use prepared communion elements or bread and juice from your home.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

A SERVICE OF LIGHT

CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

As the ensemble sings "Night of Silence," you are invited to prepare candles for those gathered with you for the Candlelighting Service. We encourage you to sing "Silent Night" with the ensemble.

CAROL

Night of Silence

Daniel Kantor

Cold are the people, winter of life,
we tremble in shadows this cold endless night.
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping; flowers that will echo the sunrise.
Fire of hope is our only warmth; weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
on wind you enfold as you speak of the light.
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing,
breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star.
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
rising in the warmth of your Son's love.
Star unknowing of night and day, Spirit, we wait for your loving Son.

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.

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

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

In dulci jubilo

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

LEADING WORSHIP THIS EVENING

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Director of Music: Rick Massengale

Ensemble: Nancy Lindsey, Nancy Musselwhite, Sam Burch, Brian Lindsey, Wayne Musselwhite

CAROLS OF THE SEASON

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 [all], from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!
Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest,
Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest.”
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

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.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

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

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.

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.

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!

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!

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!"

THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King.

In the light of that star lie the ages impearled;
And that song from afar has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.



Fayetteville First United Methodist Church welcomes you.
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GIVING

