



Spark means light.
Spark means action.

The Season of the Nativity
reveals Christ
in both ways:
as light for our way
and as acts of grace.

Receive the spark.
Share the spark.

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THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Fayetteville First UMC

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021
12 PM, 4 PM, 8 PM

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Mr. Justin Maxey
Director of Music & Organist

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!*

God of God, Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, 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

A SERVICE OF WORD

PRAYER FOR 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

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.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Lawrence

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Silent Night
arr. Rhonda L. Polay

Chancel Choir
Luanne Harms, mezzo-soprano

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, and 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! He is born!

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, He loves pure light;
 Radiant beams from thy holy face,
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
 Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*DOXOLOGY

**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.**

GREENSLEEVES

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Spark: Witness

Dr. Martin

CAROL

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Hayes

Soloist

Sam Burch 12 PM, 4 PM

Brian Lindsey, 8 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.

CAROLS 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.*

*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, Jeannette, Isabella
arr. Keith Chapman

Mr. Maxey

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

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.



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