



# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## Fayetteville First UMC

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
December 26, 2021  
11:00 AM

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.

Fayetteville First UMC welcomes you.

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### GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin  
Senior Minister

### MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Mr. Justin Maxey  
Director of Music & Organist

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Martin and **People**

*Psalm 148:1-5*

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!

**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

**Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for he commanded and they were created.**

### \*HYMN 245

*The First Nowell*  
THE FIRST NOWELL

### \*INVOCATION

Dr. Martin

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*  
Dr. Martin and **People**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven  
and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin  
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead  
and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he  
ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come  
to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy**

**Spirit, the holy \*catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\*universal UMH 881*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

GLORIA

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Dr. Martin and **People**

*Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:*

*“The peace of Christ be with you.” “And also with you.”*

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Dr. Martin and **People**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

*Colossians 3:12-17*

Dr. Martin

*<sup>12</sup>As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.*

*<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Dr. Martin and **People**

**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.**

**\*HYMN 244**

*‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

HURON CAROL

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Dr. Martin

**OFFERTORY**

*O Holy Night*  
arr. Mark Hayes

Mr. Maxey

**\*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.

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Dr. Martin

*Children ages 4 years through 2nd grade are invited to attend Wonders of Worship in Room B225.  
Children 3rd grade and older are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary for the service.  
The nursery is available for infants through 3 years.*

**\*GOSPEL READING**

Luke 2:1-20

Dr. Martin

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

*<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON***Spark: Witness The Perfect Gift*The Rev. Joe Watson  
Minister of Nurture**\*HYMN 246***Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**\*BENEDICTION**

Dr. Martin

*May the peace of Christ go with you wherever he may send you.  
May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.  
May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.  
May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our arms.*

## \*POSTLUDE

Mr. Maxey

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

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### Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew  
Annelle Burch  
Nancy Byers  
Richard Clayton

Anne Free  
Margaret Grainger  
Martha Hale  
Chenelle Hernandez

Tangie Hubbard  
Cindy Jennings  
Doris Kerlin  
Claudia Rhodes

Helen Voyles  
Mabel Wilbanks  
Brad Wilkinson

In Memoriam  
Vivian Wilson  
December 18, 2021

In Memoriam  
Joe Byers  
December 18, 2021

### Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

James Watkins and family upon the death of James' brother, Jennings Watkins, on December 16.

Jim and Gerry Haymans upon the death of Gerry's mother, Rosa Lee King, on December 17.

Rusty Wilson and family upon the death of Rusty's mother, Vivian Wilson, on December 18.

Nancy Byers and Clint, Brooke, Ella and Mary Elise Byers and family upon the death of Nancy's husband, Clint's father, and Ella and Mary Elise's grandfather, Joe Byers, on December 18.



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Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version

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GIVING

