

* Carol *Joy to the World* UM Hymnal #246; v. 1, 2, 4

Children's Message Jojo Coffin-Langdon, Director of Children's Ministries

* Carol *Away in a Manger* UM Hymnal #217; v. 1, 2

Christmas Prayer Pastor Cynthia Coffin-Langdon

* Carol *He Is Born* UM Hymnal #228; v. 1, 2

Offering Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Invitation and Prayer of Dedication

Special Music *We 3 Kings* as recorded by Robert Robinson; horn arr. Andy Peterson
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Scripture Readings Carla Egge

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace, there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Luke 2:1-19

One: And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

All: **So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.**

One: Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

All: **And she brought forth her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

One: Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them:

All: **"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."**

One: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

All: **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all people!"**

One: So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another:

All: **"Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."**

One: They came with haste and found Mary, Joseph & the Babe lying in a manger.

All: When they had seen the Babe, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

One: And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

* **Carol** *Angels We Have Heard on High* UM Hymnal #238; v. 1, 2

Meditation *A Mission and a Manger* Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* **Carol** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* UM Hymnal #234, v. 1, 2, 3, 6

Unison Prayer

Strong and tender God, one candle can pierce a thousand darknesses, one flickering light can kindle new vision, one voice on fire can set our hearts ablaze. Passionate and gentle God, you are the source of light and we are your many candles, each uniquely burning for you. Touch us. Light us. Warm us. Purify us. May a flame rise in us and burn bright in us this holy and fiery night. In the name of Jesus, the newborn king, we pray. Amen.

* **Carol of Blessing** *Silent Night, Holy Night* UM Hymnal #239

* **Benediction** Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Jesus Christ is Born* Mac Powell
Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

* *Please stand as you are comfortable*



Thank you to:

ushers: Pamela and Tom Brown

candle stewards: Marlene and Randy Bowen

online host: Maryjane Burdge

Upcoming Worship Services:

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day at 10:00am (in person only). A simple service with carol singing and a special Christmas message from Geoff Bell.

Sunday, January 1 – 10am in person for an interactive Wesleyan Covenant Service to begin a new year, or watch a brief pre-recorded worship service on YouTube.

January 8 – February 5 – “Being Created Anew” sermon series, calling us to fully and completely accept and love ourselves and others.

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