



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 25, 2022
Christmas Day

Children will remain in worship today. Activity bags are at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Sunday School resumes January 8, 2023.

Prelude Traditional Christmas carols arranged by Paul Manz
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

One: Christ is born today! Our time of waiting and preparing has brought us to this day. We relight the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. Today we light the CHRIST CANDLE as we sing together:

All: Light a candle bright and tall for the Christ we greet today.

(sung to the tune of "Dix")

Christ has come, our all in all. With the angels, let us say:

Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*Christmas Carol *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

UM Hymnal #251

Christmas Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Unison Prayer: Lord, candles burn, the sign of your hope, peace, joy and love. God, come to us this Christmas Day. May your presence live within us, burning as a light in our lives.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem *Huron Carol (Twas in the Moon of Wintertime)*
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Canadian Christmas carol; arr. Denis Bédard

Scripture Reading

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Genesis 18-1-8

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say." So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread." Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

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, and 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 toward 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: And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and 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.

- *Christmas Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UM Hymnal #230; v. 1, 4
- Sermon *The Most Happiest Season of All? Rethinking the Birth Story* Geoff Bell
- *Christmas Carol *Star-Child* The Faith We Sing #2095; v. 1, 2, 3, 5
- Offering Pastor Jeanine Alexander
- *Christmas Carol *He Is Born* UM Hymnal #228; v. 1, 3
- Benediction Pastor Jeanine Alexander
- Postlude *Il est né, le divin Enfant (He Is Born, the Divine Child)* arr. Daniel Berghout
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Thank you to our ushers, Tom and Pamela Brown.

Join us next Sunday, January 1 at 10am in person for a Wesleyan Covenant Service, an interactive way to prepare for the new year. Additionally, a shorter-than-typical recorded service will premiere on YouTube that you can watch any time afterward. It will include a new year's message and music.

From December 25 – 31, Robert and Barbara Bennett will light the church in memory of Nancy Hansen. Their gift will go to the FUMC kitchen.

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