



December 24, 2025 ★ 4:00pm

First United Methodist Church, Duluth, MN

At the end of the service, the lights will be dimmed and candles will be lit. Both battery-operated and wax candles are available at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Pastor Jeanine will give instructions on how to "pass the flame."

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Gerald Near
 Velda Graham Bell, organ
Mary, Did You Know? Lowry and Greene
 Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Greeting Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Call to Worship** *Christmas Eve Affirmation*

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle Andrea, Alex, and Michael Flinner
Leader: Joy to the world! The Lord is come! We re-light the candle of Hope, the candle of Love, the candle of Joy, and the candle of Peace. Tonight will be the culmination of it all as we light the Christ candle representing the birth of Jesus.
We thank God for the hope Jesus Christ gives us, the peace he bestows, the joy he pours into our hearts, and the love that redeems us and shows us the way. We light the Christ candle to remind us of God's gift of Jesus. Through Jesus, God's light has come into the world.

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

Children's Message

Children will remain in worship today. They will be given an activity bag during the Children's Message. A nursery is available for children age 6 and under.

*** Carol** *Star-Child* The Faith We Sing #2095; v. 1, 3, 5

Unison Prayer

O God, you have brought us again to this very special time when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Let the words of Scripture tell us the old, yet ever new, story. Let the carols take us back to see again the wonder and mystery of your coming. Enable our human minds to comprehend some of the glory of the divine event. In the name of our Savior, we pray. Amen!

Special Music *Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)* Amy Grant
 Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Scripture Readings Carla Egge and Jeanne Carroll

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 2:1-20

Leader: 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.**
Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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."**

Leader: 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!"**

Leader: 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."**

Leader: They came with haste and found Mary, 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.**

Leader: 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.

All: **And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.**

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

Christmas Prayer Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Offering Our Gifts Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Offering plates will be passed.

Special Music *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Wilbur Held
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Meditation *The Lord is Come: Incarnate Joy* Pastor Jeanine Alexander

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

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; v. 1-3

* **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, and friends

candle stewards: Stacey Fredrickson, Scotty Patterson, Theresa Williams, Marla Yoho

greeters: Marlene and Randy Bowen

online host: Maryjane Burdge

Thank you to the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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