

# *The Worship of God*

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS EVE | DECEMBER 24, 2024

4:00 PM 6:00 PM

## MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

Nicholas Bowden, Director of Music

Carolyn Hancock, Violin; Sara Hancock, Harp  
Nicholas Bowden, Organ; Nicholas Reynolds, Piano

## A SERVICE OF WORD

### THE WORD OF PROMISE

Luke 2:1-7

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence  
Associate Minister

### \*PROCESSIONAL 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!

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
Lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, 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

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Kaylen Short  
Senior Minister

## OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Short

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Leonard Family and People 4:00 PM

The Gulas Family and People 6:00 PM

Today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

**Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this."** (Isaiah 9:7)

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go!

## THE WORD OF PROMISE

Luke 2:8-14

Arlene McGruder 4:00 PM

The Rev. Charles Robinson 6:00 PM

## \*CAROL

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

*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!*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Lawrence

## OFFERTORY

*Magnificat* from Christmas Oratorio  
Camille Saint-Saëns

Savannah Cathey, Soprano  
Owen Connelly, Tenor  
Michael O'Hearn, Bass  
Sara Hancock, Harp

## \*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th

**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. Amen.**

## THE WORD OF PROMISE

Luke 2:15-20

The Rev. Drew West  
Minister of Families and Children

## \*CAROL

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

*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!"*

## THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"Inside the Manger: Jesus"

Rev. Short

## CAROL

O Holy Night  
Adolphe Adam

Savannah Cathey, soloist 4:00 PM  
Sam Burch, soloist 6:00 PM

## A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION, CONFESSION, WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Ministers 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 bread and dip it lightly into the cup. Then return to your seat by way of the outside aisle. Gluten-free elements are available at the altar and in the narthex.*

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

See last page.

*Candlelight Carol*  
John Rutter

The Chancel Choir

*How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky?  
How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first cry?  
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

*Shepherds and wisemen will kneel and adore him. Seraphim round him their vigil will keep.  
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior; Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.  
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

*Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger; Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.  
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation; a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.  
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

## 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.*

### BENEDICTION

Rev. Short

Please extinguish candles following Benediction.

### \*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.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*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.*

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Toccata from **Symphony No. 5***  
Charles- Marie Widor

Mr. Bowden

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

## CONGREGATIONAL MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

### THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath brought:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

### 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, from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

### 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.

### 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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

# FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

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Get current news in The Weekender, our weekly e-newsletter, by signing up using the QR code below.

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:45 AM – FFUMC Chapel  
11:00 AM – FFUMC Sanctuary  
Message by Rev. Charles Robinson

## EPIPHANY SUNDAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

8:45 AM – FFUMC Chapel  
Message by Rev. Kaylen Short  
10:00 AM – Churchwide Potluck Breakfast  
Fellowship Hall  
11:00 AM – FFUMC Sanctuary  
Message by Rev. Kaylen Short

### PLEASE NOTE

Find worship links for online services at [FayettevilleFirst.com](http://FayettevilleFirst.com).

Online Giving: [onrealm.org/FFUMC/give](http://onrealm.org/FFUMC/give) or use QR code below.

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays 7:30 AM

NA Meetings: Thursdays 7 PM

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