

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DECEMBER 24, 2024  
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

*\*Denotes "please stand as you are able"*

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Chris Haynes

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 234 (Red)  
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (1, 3, 6)

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

**REFRAIN**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

**REFRAIN**

\*GREETING

Leader: Sing, choirs of angels.  
People: Sing, you heavenly hosts.  
Leader: Rejoice, you shepherd in the fields.  
People: Leave your flocks and hurry to the manger.  
Leader: Salvation is at hand.  
People: Heaven has come down to earth.  
Leader: Sing, choirs of angels.  
People: Sing, you heavenly hosts.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (4:00 service) Aimee Cox

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20  
*The Gospel will be read among the people as a symbol of God's coming to live among us in Jesus.*

Luke 2:1-4 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" 230 (Red)

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.

Luke 2:5-7 "Away in a Manger" 217 (Red)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Luke 2:8-14 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" 240 (Red)

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!"

Luke 2:15-20 "What Child Is This" 219 (Red)

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.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Chris Haynes

RESPONSE

INVITATION

CONFESSION

O God of grace and truth,  
in Jesus Christ you came among us  
as your very presence made flesh.  
We confess that we have not welcomed your presence among us,  
or trusted good news to be good.  
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,  
expecting little, hoping for less.  
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,  
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,  
and live in the truth of Christ our Lord.

*All may offer their individual prayers of confession in silence.*

Leader: God is with us,  
tonight and all nights,  
whispering a message of love and forgiveness.

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
we all are forgiven.  
All: Glory to God! Amen.

OFFERING

*The Christmas Eve Offering will benefit Christ UMC's Prison Ministry.  
Thank you for your support!*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord our God is with us.  
Lift your hearts and voices high.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord  
everywhere and at all times:

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Leader: God, all glory be to you  
at this blessed Christmas time,  
for the gift of your own Son,  
born a poor child, peasant King.  
For the love you sent us,  
for the life he shared with us,  
for the sacrifice he made,  
Lord of lords, King of kings.

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Leader: On the night he was betrayed  
the Lord Jesus took the bread,  
blessed it and broke it as he said,  
"Take and eat, this is my body."  
After supper, he took the cup,  
gave you thanks, and giving it, said,  
"Drink this cup, it is my life,  
poured out for you and everyone."

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Leader: When we eat this holy bread,  
when we drink this holy cup,  
we sense his presence anew and await his victory.  
We remember and proclaim what your Son has done for us,  
in his life and in his death, for the love he showed us all.

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Leader: Now accept our sacrifice as we surrender ourselves.  
Send your Holy Spirit down on us here and on our gifts.  
Help us through this bread and the cup to know the  
presence of our Christ.

Make us one with him today  
and with humankind, we pray.

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

895 (Red)

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD/MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Bread of heaven, let us not be unchanged by tonight.  
Let us not pass by the stable in silence;  
let us not leave the table empty.  
Dwell in our hearts, and shine in our lives,  
that we might know your deep, deep peace,  
and share it with the world.  
Fill us with your love,  
that we might walk hand in hand with you all our days.  
We pray in the holy name of the Christ-child,  
born for us this night. Amen.

CHANGING OF THE ALTAR AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE  
"Night of Silence" Kantor

Tune: Daniel Kantor. © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Daniel Kantor,  
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\*HYMN "Silent Night" 239 (Red)

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!

\*CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

\*CLOSING HYMN "Joy to the World" 246 (Red)

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.

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

May the Christ child born this night –  
hope for the suffering,  
light in the darkness,  
love in human form,  
joy to the world  
be born in us –  
our hearts, our minds, and our lives;  
and may the peace of Christ be with us all,  
tonight and all nights. Amen.

CLOSING MUSIC



# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024



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