



Christmas Eve



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Dianne Runser – Director of Music Ministry

Ronald Slavin – Youth Pastor

Laura Willby – Contemporary Music Coordinator

December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve
“Silent Night, Holy Night”

WORSHIP HOST: Robbyn Slavin

SONG LEADER - David Lyons

GATHERING & WELCOME

MUSIC OF PREPARATION “The First Noel”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: He’s coming! He’s coming! The Savior of the World is coming!

P: Let us prepare our hearts to greet him!

L: He comes to each one of us, healing and restoring our lives!

P: Praise be to God for God’s mighty gift to us.

L: O Come, Prince of Peace, bring your light to us!

P: We are ready to receive you in our lives! AMEN.

***UNISON PRAYER**

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

***HYMN No. 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful” (v.1)**

1. 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;
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING – “WELCOMING THE GUEST”

Our Christmas Affirmation

7:00 PM - Slavin Family

11:00 PM – Barb Worthington

ALL: We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.

HYMN No. 246 “Joy to the World”

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
 let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
 and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
3. 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.

4. 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.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of the greatness 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.

***HYMN No. 234 "O Come All Ye Faithful" (v.2)**

2. True God of true God, Light of Light Eternal,
Lo, He shuns not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

SECOND LESSON: Luke 2: 1-7 *The Birth of Jesus*

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

***HYMN No. 234 "O Come All Ye Faithful" (v.5)**

5. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee with love and awe.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:8-12

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

***HYMN No. 234 "O Come All Ye Faithful" (v.4)**

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:13-20

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

***HYMN No. 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful” (v.3)**

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory In the highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “Ave Maria” - David Lyons

***DOXOLOGY “Christmas Doxology”**

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son.
Glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One.
Here we offer to you gladly, all the gifts that you impart,
As we glory in your presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

***HYMN No. 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful” (v.6)**

6. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

PRAYER & 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

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 4: 4-5

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

CHRISTMAS SERMON “In the Fullness of Time”

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

***CAROL No. 239 “Silent Night”**

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God love's pure light;
radiant beams from Thy holy face with dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

4. 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!

TOLLING THE CHRISTMAS BELL

*BENEDICTION

*MUSIC OF PARTING “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

***Those who are able, please stand.**

Bible passages are taken from the New International Version (NIV) of the Holy Bible.

CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY (tune: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)

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CHRISTMAS EVE’S PROGRESSIVE NATIVITY

Mary and Joseph had traveled from the village of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home to register for the census. (This was prophesied in The Old Testament, Isaiah 7:14) In Luke 2:6-7: “And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.”

There they were, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the stable used for livestock! Having a baby and was hardly sterile. The stable could have possibly been a cave. And Jesus’s first bed was in a manger, a feeding trough carved into the rock walls used for animals’ food. Advent week 4 we challenged you to use your imagination, tonight we challenge you to add some of your senses - that of sight, smell and hearing. Sight - dirty accommodations, smell - animal odors and dung, sight - the beautiful Baby boy, Jesus and hearing the baby’s first cry!



Also, in Luke 2:8-15: “That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city



of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly the angel was joined by a vast host of others- the armies of heaven-praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

In Matthew Chapter 2, King Herod had met with the wise men. Verses 9-10 “After this interview the wise men went on their way. And the star they had seen in the east, guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them ...” The wise

men can be seen to the left of the sanctuary and are still traveling, watching and following the star. We will celebrate their arrival during Epiphany!

The Nativity team, consisting of men and women, have graciously and generously given of their time and talents to bring a more Biblical rendition of that First Christmas over 2,000 years ago. It is our hope and prayer you are being Blest and are enjoying this year’s Progressive Nativity Journey! We Pray you will have a Blessed Christmas and always keep looking and reaching out for that Christ Child in your daily walk!



Thank you for the many nice comments!

Merry Christmas! Your 2020 Team Nativity

NATIVITY TEAM APPRECIATION

We hope those who have been able to worship with us here at IFUMC have been blest by our Progressive Nativity Experience. We hope and pray Christmas and the scriptures of the Messiah’s birth are more meaningful to you. This Progressive Nativity Experience is from God’s inspiration and in honor of our dear friends and teachers, Bettie and Glenn Heydt.

Thank you to:

- David Platt, Eric Platt, Fritz Runser who set up the stable, backdrop and stars.
- Patti and Jack Osterman for making the life-sized lamb and the turtledove’s cage.
- Jack Osterman for stabilizing the lamb and the youth shepherd.
- Lisa O’Reilly for painting our turtledoves and making the lettered scroll.
- The Media Team, Eric Platt and Josh Berger for sound effects and photo coverage during services.
- John Simpson for the Church’s outdoor signage each week promoting the Nativity.
- Mike Andrison who helped our wise men stand safely.
- Alan Painter who presented the Roman Soldier.
- Phill Paden and Fritz Runser who light the Nativity’s candles and stars.
- The Team Nativity for the sharing of their many talents and time throughout the year.
- The many prayers and support from you, the congregation, Pastor Bruce Judy, and Ron Slavin, Pastor Assistant and Youth Director.
- For all who will celebrate the True Meaning of Christmas because of a better understanding of the scriptures related to Jesus’ birth and are willing to share to those who may not know!

Thank you all and have a Merry, Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!
Your Nativity Team
