

Wesley United Methodist Church

6:00 PM Worship

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude

Silent Night

Piano Duets

What Child Is This

Joel Raney (b. 1956)

A Christmas Prelude for Flute and Organ

Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

Greeting

Pastor: In the quiet of the night a woman gives birth: a personal act of faith; accepting God's charge upon her.

Congregation: **In the quiet of the night, a baby breathes the air: God steps out of the divine into the mundane for us.**

Pastor: May the peace of God be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

*Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1-3, 6)

UMH 234

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.

True God of true God, Light from 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.

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.

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.

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**

*Candle Lighting

One: Beloved, 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.

Many: 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. 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."

One: 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.

Light the center candle of the Advent wreath.

Solo

"Mary, Did You Know"

David Potts
Jack Schrader (b. 1942)

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered
Will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will calm a storm with His hand?

Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
When you kissed your little baby
You've kissed the face of God

The blind will see, the deaf will hear
And the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy
Is Heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding
Is the great 'I Am'

Common Prayer (*unison*)

**God of glory,
your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem
into the darkness of human night.
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.**

Anthem

"Peace, Peace"

Rick and Silvia Powell (cf. 20th c.)

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

***(Note - the choir sings this 3 times; on the third time,
the congregation sings the first verse of Silent Night).***

The Offering

Offertory Music

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Piano Duet
Joel Raney (b. 1956)

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Anthem

"I Wonder as I Wonder"

John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Saviour, did come for to die.
For poor, ornery people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander
Out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cows' stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages
It did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing:
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing;
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have had it,
'Cause He was the King!

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Saviour, did come for to die.
For poor, ornery people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander
Out under the sky.

Message

Solo

“A Christmas Carol”

Michelle Williams
Norman Dello Joio (1913-2008)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap
His hair was like a light
O weary, weary were the world
But here is all aright

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast
His hair was like a star
O stern and cunning are the kings
But here the true hearts are

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart
His hair was like a fire
O weary, weary is the world
But here the world's desire

The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee
His hair was like a crown
And all the flowers looked up at Him
And all the stars looked down

O weary, weary were the world
But here the world is aright

Candle Lighting & Hymn “Silent Night”

(Individual candles are lit while singing. Please tip your unlit candle and light it from the flame of the candle of the person next to you. The sanctuary lights will be dimmed during the hymn.)

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 a far,
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 the birth.

Silent night, holy night,
wonderous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Postlude

Dismissal in Silence

(Please extinguish your candle and put it in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.)

Worship Leaders: David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Cynthia Fletcher, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee,
William Ness, Debbie O'Driscoll, Anna Pak (flutist), David Potts, Chancel Choir, Worship Tech Team

Candle Lighting – *Come, Let Us Adore Him: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy*, by Lisa Hancock,
The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries

Common Prayer – *Worship & Song: Worship Resources*, Abingdon Press, 2011, 8.

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