

**Tuesday, December 24, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
BLESSED CHRISTMAS EVE!**

PRELUDE — Anneke Toomey

WELCOME — Lin

***CALL TO WORSHIP** — Suzanne Gallagher

One: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy, for all people.

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad!

One: To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Many: Let us sing songs of praise and shout for joy!

One: For now there is nothing in death or life, in things present, or things to come, nothing in all creation, that can separate us from the love of God, through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Many: Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, rejoice! Rejoice!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!!

***OPENING HYMN** **UMH #246 “Joy to the World”**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth received her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

2. 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 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 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 of his love.

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH — Glen, Janice, Jasmine & Nikolas Bachman

CAROL — Insert **“Some Children See Him” (from W&S #3065)**

1. Some children see him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night,
Some children see him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.
Some children see him bronzed and brown, the Lord of heaven to earth come down;
Some children see him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

2. Some children see him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside,
Some children see him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.
Some children see him dark as they, sweet Mary’s Son to whom we pray;
Some children see him dark as they, and ah! They love him, too!

3. The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus’ face
like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.
O lay aside each earthly thing, and with thy heart as offering,
Come worship now the infant King. ‘Tis love that’s born tonight!

CHILDREN’S TIME

“Finding Jesus”

Rev. Lin Cheek

THE CHRISTMAS STORY THROUGH SCRIPTURE AND CAROLS

First Reading: Glory Revealed to All—Isaiah 40:1-5

Carol—UMH #216 **“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (vs 1 & 2)**

1. Lo, How a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

Second Reading: A Servant with Gentle Strength—Isaiah 42:1-4

Carol—UMH #228 **“He Is Born”**

REFRAIN: He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

1. Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;
Thru long ages of the past; now the time has come at last! REFRAIN

2. O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to human-kind. REFRAIN

Third Reading: A Servant of Peace is Born—Luke 2:1-11

Carol—UMH #217 “Away In A Manger” (verses 1 & 3)

1. 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.

2. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Fourth Reading: Adored by Outsiders—Luke 2:8- 42:1-4

Carol—UMH #238 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (verses 1, 2, 3)

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN: Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? REFRAIN

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. REFRAIN

SPECIAL MUSIC — Rinn Choir

(song from Cantata?)

Fifth Reading: Jesus the Deliverer—Luke 2:15-20

Carol—UMH #230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1 & 2)

1. 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.

2. 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!

Sixth Reading: Taking the Form of a Slave—Philippians 2:5-11

Carol—UMH #234 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (verses 1 & 3)

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;
REFRAIN: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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

Seventh Reading: Royal Robes for a Rescued People—Colossians 2:6-7, 3:12-15

Carol—UMH #240 “Hark The Herald Angels Sing” (verses 1 & 3)

1. 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!”
REFRAIN: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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. REFRAIN

Eighth Reading: A Jew for All Peoples—Luke 2:25-32

Carol—UMH #218 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (verses 1 & 4)

1. 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 all, from heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER — Lin

ALL: 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.

Carol—Insert: Still, Still, Still (from Worship & Song, #3066)

1. Still, still, still, the night is cold and chill.

The virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the Christ child holding.

Still, still, still, the night is cold and chill.

2. Dream, dream, dream, he sleeps, the Savior king.

While guardian angels watch beside him Mary tenderly will guide him.

Dream, dream, dream, he sleeps, the Savior king.

OFFERTORY— Scott Anderson and Anneke Toomey “O Holy Night”

***RESPONSE —** UMH #221 “In The Bleak Midwinter” (verse 4 only)

4. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION —** Suzanne Gallagher

All: Gracious and loving God, in this season of gift-giving, we offer our gifts to you, knowing that we can never repay you for the gift of your Son, our savior, Jesus the Christ. We ask that you prepare our hearts to receive him once more. When we are lost in darkness, shine your light into the darkness of our world. When the gloom clings tightly to us, shine your glory into the shadows of our lives. Overcome our fear, Holy One, and break all that binds us, that we may freely and without hindrance seek the Christ Child this night. Prepare our hearts, O God, to behold your precious gift in awe and wonder. It is in his name, we pray. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

One: We are joyful, Lord God, for the life of your son ... and welcome strangers in your name.

All: God of the Dawn, Christ of the New Day Coming, Spirit who is ever present, we wait for you, Mary's baby, and your entry into the world. Amen.

INVITATION — Lin

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome to share in Communion, and all means all. Please come forward when invited by the usher and eat the bread, then drink the cup. For the convenience of all, we use non-alcoholic grape juice and also provide gluten free wafers. When you return to your seat, please take time to pray for those on the prayer list in the bulletin. If you would prefer to receive communion in the pew, please let the usher know and the elements will be brought to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION — Suzanne Gallagher

All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

LIGHTING OF ALL CANDLES—*The Sanctuary lights will be turned off. Worship leaders will take the light from the Christ Candle. After the spoken meditation, they will pass the light to the ushers. The ushers will pass the light to each row. Please pass the light to your neighbor. As we pass the light along, we will sing the hymn “Silent Night.”*

CAROL— UMH #239 **“Silent Night, Holy 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 the 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.

***BENEDICTION (Linda)**

POSTLUDE — Anneke Toomey

Prelude/Postlude—Anneke
Song Leader—Choir
Liturgist—Suzanne Gallagher

Accomp.—Anneke
Special Music—Choir
Children’s Message—Lin

Offertory—Anneke & Scott
Organ—Betsy or Ginny?