

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 — 7:00pm

BLESSED CHRISTMAS EVE!

PRELUDE — Scott Anderson

WELCOME — Rev. Lin Cheek

***CALL TO WORSHIP** — Bonnie Clark

One: We are almost there!

Many: The waiting is over!

One: Tomorrow is the day we welcome the Christ Child.

Many: Tomorrow is Christmas!

One: So tonight, we celebrate the end of our waiting, and together we sing out:

Many: Christ is born, alleluia!

All: Let us worship and sing our praise!

***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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE — Lacy, Mason & Maddox McCormick

SPECIAL MUSIC — Scott & Shelly & Rhonda “Gesu Bambino”

TIME OF 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME — Lin

THE CHRISTMAS STORY THROUGH LESSONS AND CAROLS — Lin & Bonnie

First Lesson — Scripture: Genesis 5:1b-2

Carol: UMH #196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (vs 1 & 2)

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Second Lesson — Scripture: Genesis 22:15-18

Carol: UMH #211 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1 & 2)

1. O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
Who mourns in lowly exile here until the son of God appear.

REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come thou wisdom from on high who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. **REFRAIN**

Third Lesson — Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, 6

Carol: UMH #224 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now,
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

Fourth Lesson — Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

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 men, 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC — Rae Ann Norell & Rhonda Ritter “Ave Maria”

Fifth Lesson — Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Carol: UMH #249 “There’s a Song in the Air”

1. There’s a song in the air, there’s a star in the sky
There’s a mother’s deep prayer and a baby’s low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger in Bethlehem cradles a King!

2. There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin’s sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! The star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

Sixth Lesson — Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Carol: UMH #228 “He Is Born” (verses 1 & 2)

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

SPECIAL MUSIC — Rinn Choir “Still, Still, Still”

Seventh Lesson — Scripture: Luke 2:8-16

Carol: UMH #238 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (verses 1-3)

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

REFRAIN: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, 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

Eighth Lesson — Scripture: Matthew 2:1-11

Carol: UMH #245 "The First Noel"

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherd in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

REFRAIN: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. REFRAIN

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. REFRAIN

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. REFRAIN

Ninth Lesson — Scripture: John 1:1-9

Carol: UMH #242 "Love Came Down at Christmas" (verses 1 & 3)

1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sing.

3. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY — Brad, Scott, & Shelly Anderson

"Away In the Manger"

***RESPONSE** UMH #221 "In The Bleak Midwinter" (verse 4)

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 — Bonnie Clark

All: God of infinite chances, there is no length to which you will not go, to offer us the possibility of new life and the opportunity for redemption. As we gather in gratitude for the gift of your Son, receive our thanks and humble appreciation for all you have given us. Bless these gifts and offerings, that they may bring light and life to the world, so that all people may know your love and grace. We pray in the name of the Lord of Love. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC — Scott Anderson “O Holy Night”

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES — Lin

***CLOSING HYMN 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 — Lin**

POSTLUDE — Betsy Foushee

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| Prelude/Postlude—Scott/Betsy | Accomp.— Rhonda Ritter |
| Offertory— Brad, Scott, Shelly, Betsy | Song Leader — Bonnie Clark |
| Organ — Betsy Foushee | Violin — Rae Ann Norell |
| Liturgist — Bonnie Clark | Children’s Message— Lin Cheek |
| Special Music: Scott Anderson | “O Holy Night” |
| Scott & Shelly | “Gesu Bambino” |
| Brad, Scott & Shelly | “Away In the Manger” |
| Rinn Choir | “Still, Still, Still” |
| Rae Ann & Rhonda | “Ave Maria” |

HYMNS:

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| UMH #246 | "Joy to the World" |
| UMH #196 | "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" |
| UMH #211 | "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" |
| UMH #224 | "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" |
| UMH #218 | "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" |
| UMH #249 | "There's a Song in the Air" |
| UMH #228 | "He Is Born" |
| UMH #238 | "Angels We Have Heard on High" |
| UMH #240 | "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (must use) |
| UMH #245 | "The First Noel" |
| UMH #242 | "Love Came Down at Christmas" |
| UMH #221 | "In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4 only)" |
| UMH #239 | "Silent Night" |