

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

4:30 p.m.

Please silence all electronic devices.

** = Please stand as you are able.*



We Gather as God's People

GATHERING

As you arrive, if you have children with you please take them to the hallway (through the door near the pulpit) to get a costume for our spontaneous Christmas pageant.

PRELUDE

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME, REGISTRATION, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friendship/Attendance Books – *Please record your attendance and pass the book to those next to you.*

First time visitors – *Welcome! Please complete the yellow card in the Friendship Book and place it in the offering plate later in the service.*

VIDEO

"It All Starts Here"

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#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;

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;

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain: 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:

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

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

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Loving God, we are here tonight to celebrate that Jesus is born,
and that Jesus brings hope and love to the world.
Help us to listen closely to the Bible readings that tell us about Jesus' birth.
May we feel the power of your love and may we joyfully share that love with all people.
In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Lindsay family

God came into the world so that none would live in darkness.

Glory to God in the highest!

The light shines in the darkness

and the darkness does not overcome it.

This is the good news for all people: to us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And things will never be the same.

The world has been transformed.

It is made new with hope, peace, joy and love. (The candle is lit.)

Let us pray:

**Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your transforming power.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

We Hear the Christmas Story

FIRST LESSON: Luke 2:1-5

Chip Buel

(As we sing, the donkeys, cows, and horses come forward.)

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:6-7

Chip Buel

(As we sing, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus come forward.)

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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:8-14

Pastor Kathryn

(As we sing, the angels come forward.)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinner 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!"

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:15-20

Pastor Kathryn

(As we sing, the shepherds and sheep come forward.)

The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds 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.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

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

FIFTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11

Chip Buel

(As we sing, the kings and camels come forward.)

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

The children may return to their seats and remove their costumes.

VIDEO

"The Christmas Story"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Kathryn

Please come forward and join Pastor Kathryn at the front of the Sanctuary.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Il Est Né

French Carol

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

What Child is This?

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.

We Depart to Serve God in the World

JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

(As we sing, please crack your glow stick to make it shine.)

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, 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.

CLOSING PRAYER (in unison)

God of light and love, shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead. Guide us out of our darkness and into your joyous light. May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Amen.

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

A child has been born for us. God's grace has been given to us.

From a stable in Bethlehem our Savior has come.

We have seen the glory of the Lord, revealed in the face of the Christ child.

We can hardly contain our amazement!

Tell the world. Treasure the story. Ponder it in your heart.

We will praise God for all we have heard and seen!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ has come!

Amen!

POSTLUDE

Joy to The World

arr. David Lasky

Following the service, please return your costumes to the box in the Narthex.

This service was adapted from one created by Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church, Durham, North Carolina. Used by permission.

The video "It All Starts Here" is produced by Floodgate Productions and is used by permission of Worship House media. The video "The Christmas Story" is produced by Amber Sky Records and used by permission of Worship House Kids.

Greeters: Bridget and Bethany Buel

Projection / Sound: Phil and Gina Dawson

Organist: Robert Holder

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Kathryn Woodrow, Senior Pastor

Ushers: Greg Heath, Griff Lindsay

Costume Assistants: Emily and Abby Lindsay

Director of Music: Michael Wu

Faith United Methodist Church · 6810 Montrose Road · Rockville, Maryland 20852

301-881-1881 · www.faithworkshere.com · office@faithworkshere.com