

Christmas Eve

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



December 24, 2017

8:00 p.m.

Please silence all electronic devices.

** = Please stand as you are able. UMH = United Methodist Hymnal*
Words in **bold type** are the people's responses.

We Gather as God's People

PRELUDE (starting at 7:30 p.m.)

Selections for Brass

The M Street Brass Quintet

GATHERING AND MEDITATION

As you enter and take your seat, please respect those around you who use this time to center themselves quietly and prepare their hearts for worship.

WELCOME, REGISTRATION, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friendship/Attendance Books – *Please record your attendance in the black folder at the inside end of the pew and pass the folder to those next to you.*

First time visitors – *Welcome! We are delighted that you are here. Please complete the yellow card in the Friendship Book and place it in the offering plate later in the service.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

UMH #250

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to a celebration like no other!

This is the night of Christ's Holy Birth!

Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.

Rejoice, dear friends, the Good News is here!

Christ our Savior is Born!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Mike Newton & Linda Werling

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 Christ 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.

THE BIDDING PRAYER
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Dr. Woodrow

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH #895

BLESSING

May the humility of the shepherds, the faith of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ Child, be God's gift to us and to all people, this Christmas and always.

Amen.

We Hear God's Word and We Faithfully Respond

ANTHEM

Silent Night
Bells of Faith

Franz Gruber,
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-14, 17, 19

Sara Romeyn

God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Wonder as I Wander
Chancel Choir, Bob Holder, and The M Street Brass Quintet

John Niles, arr. John Rutter

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

David Cope

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of earth shall be blessed.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

O Holy Night
Alyssa Herman, Soprano

Adolphe Adam

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Julia Evans

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (stanzas 1 & 2)

UMH #216

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

Michael Newton

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH #230

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Nancy Kuhn

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Mary's Magnificat
Chancel Choir

Andrew Carter

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 Timothy Evans
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.
One: The Word of the Lord. ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Ding! Dong! Merrily on High* French Carol, arr. Charles Wood
Chancel Choir, Bob Holder, and The M Street Brass Quintet

*THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (sung to the tune of *What Child Is This*)
**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16 Linda Werling
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.
One: The Word of the Lord. ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *The Shepherd's Farewell (from L'Enfants du Christ)* Hector Berlioz
Chancel Choir, Bob Holder, and The M Street Brass Quintet

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 William Evans
The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.
One: The Word of the Lord. ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL *We Three Kings* (stanzas 1, 2, & 5) UMH #254

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14 Dr. Woodrow
John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.
One: The Word of the Lord. ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (seated)
*The Pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle and then will light the ushers' candles.
The ushers will light the candle of the adult nearest the aisle in each pew. As the light is passed,
DIP ONLY THE UNLIT CANDLE INTO YOUR NEIGHBOR'S LIGHTED ONE.*

CANDLELIGHT CAROL *Silent Night* UMH #239

Please remain seated as we sing. Extinguish your candle at the end of the carol.

**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 afar, 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 thy birth.**

**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.**

Please carefully extinguish your candle now.

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.**

We Are Sent Forth to Serve God in the World

*CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH #246

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

You have heard the stories of old, the stories of God's salvation.

With Mary, we have pondered these things in our hearts.

Go out into the world to love and do as Christ would have you do.

With Joseph, we realize that our work has just begun.

As you depart, know that the love of God goes with you wherever you go.

We are strengthened by Christ's presence with us. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Selections for Brass

The M Street Brass Quintet

Please return your candles to the Narthex after the service.

Greeters: Debbie, Jason, & Libby Spriggs; **Ushers:** Jan Lafleur, Karen Johnston, Gordon Henley, Bill Benson;
Sound: Doug Dismukes; **Organist:** Robert Holder; **Director of Music:** Michael Wu; **Director, Bells of Faith:**
Nancy Kuhn; **The M Street Brass Quintet:** Terry Alvey and Scott Herman, trumpets; Jonathan Eising, French
horn; Kurt Lucas, trombone; Lawrence Eden, tuba. **Worship Leader:** Rev. Dr. Kathryn Woodrow, Pastor.

Sunday, December 31, 2017: First Sunday after Christmas – One Service Only at 10:00am.

- A Service of Covenant Renewal for the Turning of the Year. There will be no Sunday school, but Nursery care will be available.

Sunday, January 7, 2018: Epiphany Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. – Holy Grounds (casual worship), Room 205
- 10:00 a.m. – Epiphany Sunday. Holy Communion.

Sunday, January 14, 2018: Baptism of the Lord Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. – Holy Grounds (casual worship), Room 205
- 10:00 a.m. – Reception of new members, the Sacrament of Baptism, and renewal of baptismal vows.

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