



December 29, 2024
First Sunday after Christmas Day

WE GATHER

CENTERING

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

PRELUDE

Joyous Morning

Composer: Gerald Peterson, Living
Ann Bartlow, Organist

WELCOME

Nancy Kneisly, Outreach Team, Chair

CALL TO WORSHIP

Janice Jones, Liturgist

ONE:	We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear:
ALL:	God is in our joy.
ONE:	God is in this room.
ALL:	We have reason to celebrate.
ONE:	We have a reason to sing.
ALL:	Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

***OPENING HYMN #89**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Words: Henry Valn Dyke, 1907; stanza 4 alt. 1989

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, Organ

WORD/WONDER

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Janice Jones, Liturgist

ONE:	Joyful God, You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children.
ALL:	Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?
ONE:	In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,
ALL:	this often seems easier said than done.
ONE:	Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.
ALL:	Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.
ONE:	We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.
ALL:	Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray, amen.
	Words of Pardon:
ONE:	Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
ALL:	We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

ONE:	That is news worth celebrating! That is news that should make us want to cheer, laugh, cry with relief, dance, and sing all at the same time! So in response to God's goodness, I invite you to rise in body or spirit and join me in the sung response. Let us make a joyful noise for God's abundant mercy.
-------------	---

SUNG RESPONSE: HYMN #238

Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)

Words: Traditional French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt. (Luke 2:6-20)

Music: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1964

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, Organ

Refrain:

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria,
in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria,
in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Janice Jones, Liturgist

LISTEN FOR JOY

Janice Jones, Liturgist

Luke 2:10

Isaiah 9:2-3

***SING WITH JOY: HYMN #238**

Angels We Have Heard on High (verses and refrain)

Words: Traditional French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt. (Luke 2:6-20)

Music: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1964

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, Organ

PRACTICE JOY

LISTEN FOR JOY

Janice Jones, Liturgist

Matthew 2:10

Psalm 148

*SING WITH JOY: HYMN #234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: John F. Wade, ca. 1743; trans: Frederick Oakeley, 1841

Music: J. F. Wade; harm. from *Collection of Motetts or Antiphons*, 1792

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, Organ

PRACTICE JOY

Joy found in community.

LISTEN FOR JOY

Janice Jones, Liturgist

Psalm 126:1-3

Isaiah 55:12

*SING WITH JOY: HYMN #240

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley, 1734; alt. George Whitefield, 1753 (Luke 2:8-14)

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr.: William H. Cummings, 1856

Congregation

Ann Bartlow Organ

PRACTICE JOY

Joy found in prayer and giving.

WHAT NOW

*SING WITH JOY: HYMN #246

Joy to the World

Words: Charles Wesley, 1734; alt. George Whitefield, 1753 (Luke 2:8-14)

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr.: William H. Cummings, 1856

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, Organ

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Let Earth Receive Her King!

(Joy To The World)

Composer: Richard Elliot, Living

Ann Bartlow, Organ

SERVING US TODAY

Acolytes: Grace Basford and Laura Hahs

Altar Guild for December: Nancy Kneisly and Alma Rines

Audio Visual Volunteers: Debbie and Jason Spriggs

Chat Room Host: Mary Stark

Congregational Welcome: Nancy Kneisly

Fellowship Hosts: Andy and Laura Basford and family

Liturgist: Janice Jones

Nursery Staff: Lesley Avery and Tessa Ricketts

Welcome Team: Bill Beisner

FAITH UMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

Ann Bartlow, Organist

André Coleman, Tenor Section Leader

Valerie Kunsman, Office Administrator

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

Curtis Osborne, Coordinator of Intergenerational Nurture

Tessa Ricketts, Nursery Staff

Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator

Kim Webster, Finance Manager

Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director

Acknowledgements: Christian Copyright Licensing International #20292994