



**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**December 24, 2020**  
*Christmas Eve Service*

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**PRELUDE**

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Words by Edmund H. Sears, Music by Richard Stors Willis

**CHRISTMAS GREETING**

**LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

Sandy Rusnack

**CAROL #148CH**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*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,  
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.  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LEADER:** Tonight we conclude our Advent journey  
as we light the Christ Candle  
welcoming the one promised in Scripture.

**PEOPLE:** **He is called. Emmanuel: God with us!**

**LEADER:** We celebrate the hope brought to us by our Wonderful Counselor

**PEOPLE:** **He is called. Emmanuel: God with us!**

**LEADER:** We rejoice in the strength and power of a Mighty God.

**PEOPLE:** **He is called. Emmanuel: God with us!**

**LEADER:** We sing of peace on earth and goodwill to all people.

**PEOPLE: He is called. Emmanuel: God with us!**

**LEADER:** And we lift our hearts in praise to our Everlasting Father.

**PEOPLE: He is called. Emmanuel: God with us!**  
**Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

**Living God, on this holy night we gather—  
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;  
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;  
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;  
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.**

**May the good news of this night inspire us  
to tell the world of our great joy:**

**for to us is born a Savior,  
the Messiah, the Lord.**

**Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.**

### **CAROL #128**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood high as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid winter, long ago.*

*Our God transcends all heaven, earth, and its domain  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter a stable sufficed  
the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.*

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Andy Dudeck

Tonight we light all five candles on the Advent wreath  
as we celebrate the birth of Christ,  
the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.  
As the Light of these candles fill this room,  
we light the Christ Candle, welcoming the newborn king,  
Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, God with us. .

*(All the Advent candles are lit, followed by the Christ Candle)*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

“Oh Holy Night” Joyce Harris and Terry Jones  
By Adolphe Charles Adam, arr. By Michelle Mclaughlin

## THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
*The Birth of the Messiah is Promised*

Andy Dudeck

<sup>2</sup> *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined .<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

## CAROL #150CH

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*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 in the skies,  
with the angel host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King”*

*Christ by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time, behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb,  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in flesh with us do dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King”*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38  
*The Birth of Jesus Foretold*

Pastor Merlyn

<sup>26</sup> *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of*

the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[c]</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**CAROL #133**

**"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth, the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*

*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, and voices ring, with peace to all on earth.*

**THE THIRD LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7  
*The Birth of Jesus*

Andy Dudeck

**2** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**SOLO**

**"All Is Well"**

Jeff Behling

By Michael W. Smith and Wayne Kirkpatrick

*All is well, all is well.  
Angels and men rejoice  
For tonight darkness fell  
Into the dawn of love's light.  
Sing alle, sing alleluia  
All is well, all is well.  
Let there be peace on earth.  
Christ is come, Go and tell that He is in the manger.  
Sing alle, sing alleluia.*

*All is well, all is well.  
Lift up your voice and sing, sing.  
Born is now Emmanuel,  
Born is our Lord and Savior.  
Sing alleluia!  
Sing Alleluia! All is well.  
Born is now Emmanuel, Born is our Lord and Savior.  
Sing alleluia!  
Sing Alleluia!  
All is well, All, All is well.*

## THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-14  
*The Shepherds and the Angels*

Pastor Merlyn

<sup>8</sup> *In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors".*

## CAROL #126

### "Angels from the Realm of Glory"

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim the Messiah's birth:*

*Come and worship, Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, give thanks and sing.*

*Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er the flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:*

*Come and worship, Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, give thanks and sing.*

## THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20  
*Gathering at the Manger*

Andy Dudeck

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CAROL** #145

"Once in Royal David's City"

*Once in Royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her bay in a manger for a bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*Jesus came from earth to heaven, who is God and head of all,  
Sheltered in a rustic stable, cradled in a common stall;  
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*And through all this wondrous childhood Jesus honored and obeyed,  
Loved and watched the tender mother whose strong arms the cradle made,  
So like Jesus, we should be serving God obediently.*

## THE SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-11  
*The Magi follow the Star*

Pastor Merlyn

<sup>2</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard

the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**CAROL** #172CH

“We Three Kings”

*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 of royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to your 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*

*Glorious now behold him arise;  
Christ and God and sacrifice:  
alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.*

*Refrain*

*O star of wonder, star of light,  
star of royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to your perfect light.*

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

**Invitation to Generosity**

Pastor Merlyn

**Offertory**

“What Child is This?”

arr. By Erinn Jarrel Schwartz

Joyce Harris - Piano

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Light of the World, accept these gifts we offer as we wait for your coming again.  
Use all that we have and all that we are to bring light in every darkness,  
ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless warring into your endless peace.  
In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.**

## THE SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1- 14

Andy Dudeck

### *The Mystery of the Incarnation*

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## CAROL #139

### “The First Nowell”

*The first Nowell, the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in field as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep  
on a cold winters night that was so deep.*

#### Refrain

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

*They looked above 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

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

## LIGHTING OF ALL CANDLES

**CAROL** #134

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

*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, Child of God, loves pure light,  
Radiant beams from your holy face, bring the dawn of redeeming grace;  
Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ at your birth.*

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

**CAROL** #132

“Joy to The World”

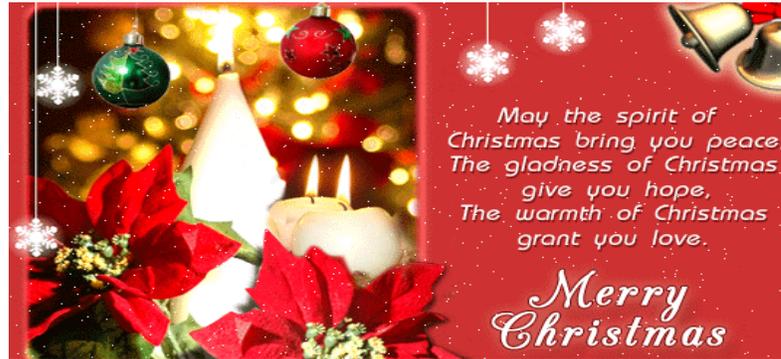
*Joy to the world! The Lord has come;  
Let earth its praises bring;  
Let every heart, prepare Christ room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plain  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*Christ rules the world, with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of God's righteousness  
And wonders of God's love,  
And wonders of God's love  
And wonders, wonders of God's love.*

## CHRISTMAS BLESSING

## POSTLUDE



### Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service

<i>Joyce Harris</i>	<i>Organist</i>
<i>Terry Jones</i>	<i>Pianist</i>
<i>Sandy Rusnack</i>	<i>Bell Ringer</i>
<i>Jeff Behling</i>	<i>Soloist</i>
<i>Andy Dudeck</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>
<i>Dr. Oliver Lawrence</i>	<i>Videographer</i>
<i>Rev. Merlyn Lawrence</i>	<i>Senior Pastor</i>