

WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS EVE

6:45 p.m. Christmas Musical Prelude

7:00 p.m. Service of Worship

Hearing assistance devices are available for use. Please see the technician at our sound booth if this service will be helpful to you. Large print bulletins and hymnals are also available. Please speak to one of the ushers if you would like either one or both of these.

***Congregation stands in body or spirit.**

CHIMES

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE *Greensleeves* arr. Albrecht

***CALL TO WORSHIP[^]**

Sing, choirs of angels.

Sing in exaltation.

Let the shepherds in the fields rejoice.

Let the stars in the sky worship the newborn king.

For heaven has come down to earth.

Salvation has come to our homes this day.

Sing, choirs of angels.

Sing in exaltation.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH^{^^}

RESPONSIVE INVOCATION^{^^}

Together we proclaim that:

Christ has come to our hearts this day.

Christ has come to our church this day.

Christ has come to the world this day!

Amen.

*HYMN *Joy to the World* 318

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7* OT 638

ANTHEMS *Cool Night, Quiet Night* Lau
Baby in a Manger Nolan
A Star Choplin

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING^{^^^} & OFFERTORY PRAYER^{^^^^}

OFFERTORY *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* Traditional

GOSPEL READING *Luke 2:1-20* NT 58

*HYMN *The First Noel* 199

MEDITATION

CANDLIGHTING AND HYMN *Peace, Peace / Silent Night* Insert
Powell

Please remain seated as the ushers begin lighting the candles for worshipers. Only the **unlit** candle should be tilted to receive the light; otherwise hot wax will spill on your clothing. Please do not hold a lit candle near the person in front of you; it is very easy to catch their hair or clothing on fire.

Raise your lit candle high as we sing the last verse. Remain seated for the benediction. Please extinguish your candle at the conclusion of the benediction. As you leave the sanctuary, place extinguished candles in the baskets at the door.

BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* arr. Ritter

[^]Beu, B.J. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*. (Abingdon Press: Nashville, TN. 2021). Pg. 299. Used with permission.

^{^^}McFee, Dr. Marcia. *The Worship Design Studio*. www.worshipdesignstudio.com. ©2019. Used with permission. Adapted.

^{^^^}Beu, B.J. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*. (Abingdon Press: Nashville, TN. 2016). Pg. 272. Used with permission. Adapted.

^{^^^^}Bartlett, David L., Barbara Brown Taylor, and Kimberly Bracken Long. *Feasting on the Word: Advent Companion*. (Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, KY. 2014). Pgs. 101. Used with permission.

A Sincere Thank You To

Rev. Angela Finet for her pastoral ministry among us.

John and Gloria Hess for their musical leadership.

John Hess, Drew Brouse, trumpets; Aaron Booz, Chuck Few euphoniums; James Zeigler, trombone; and Cindy Dale, piano; for providing instrumental music this evening.

Valerie and Penny Schulz for providing the pre-service music.

Thank you to the Choir for their hard work and gifts of music all year long!

Bill Kepner for leading worship this evening.

Wendy Allshouse, Catherine Repkoe, Stella Schulz, Dave Serfass, Lois Silver, Zack Snyder, and Terry Few for serving as our advent wreath.

Steve & Nancy Hess Family and Cindy Heisey for serving as greeters.

Our ushers Beth Hess, Steve Hess, Barry Lauver, and Holly Mele.

Joan Boshnaugle and Carol Nissly for distributing candles.

Sara and Don Wagner, Cindy Heisey, Jerry Bushong and Barry Lauver for decorations.

Dell Boshnaugle, Dave Fuchs, Michael Graham, and Steve Hess for lighting and sound.

Harry Light for security.

Everyone is welcome to worship with us Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in person or on YouTube. Sunday School and faith formation for children and adults begins at 9:00 a.m.

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Joy
to the
World

2023 Worship Theme

MAKING MEANING OF MIRACLES

The Gospels are full of miracle stories! But, why? Do these stories help us understand who Jesus is? Or do they raise more questions than answers? Do miracles still happen today? How do miracles impact your daily life?

Join us for worship each week to explore these and other questions as we dive into the following miracle stories:

January 8: Jesus Cures a Blind Man - Mark 8:22-26

January 15: Feeding the Five Thousand - Luke 9:10-17
(Pulpit Swap with Lititz CoB – Rev. Jim Grossnickle-Batterton)

January 22: Jesus Heals a Paralytic - Mark 2:1-12

January 29: A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed
- Matthew 9:18-26

February 5: Jesus Raises Lazarus - John 11:1-44

You won't want to miss it!

All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING – Gifts for the Christ Child

Your gifts will be shared equally with:

New Community Project's Midwife Training in DRC. The Democratic Republic of Congo faces an on-going crisis in maternal/newborn care. A woman dies in childbirth every 25 minutes in the DRC, and the risk of dying during birth is 1 in 24. Almost 5% newborns die at birth or immediately after. Two months training for 50 midwives costs \$1,500; Practitioner's Kits containing disinfectant, gloves and other essentials are \$40/ midwife.

Parish Resource Center's Baby Kits to Union Community Care, the medical provider for many local low-income families. They have requested Baby Kits to provide new moms with essentials to start them out right. Qualifying new mothers and babies are released from the hospital with a diaper bag full of basics.

To make an offering: Place your checks or cash in the plate or give online through our website: Mountvillecob.org. Click on the green "Give via Tithe.ly" button and follow the prompts. In the dropdown menu, select the "Christmas Eve offering" option. Place a pew card in the plate as a symbol of your gift.

Silent 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! 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."**