



Christmas Eve Service

First United Methodist Church

Pastor Chris Hardy



December 24, 2018
Christmas Eve Service
Worship 5:00

Welcome

Prayer of Illumination

Glorious God, in Jesus your grace appears, bringing salvation to all. Help us to ponder your words of love by the light of your Spirit, that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace and welcome Christ in our world.
Amen.

Prelude

Linda Schreiber & Adria Hardy

Call to Worship

Pastor: Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.

**People: Unto us a child is born this night; a Savior,
Christ the Lord.**

Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vv. 1-4)

#234

A Christmas 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

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

#238

Reading of Holy Scripture

John 1:1-14 (NLT)

Carol

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

#240

Reading of Holy Scripture

Luke 2:1-20 (NLT)

Message

Pastor Chris

Pastoral Prayer

Gracious and Holy God, on this night, we have heard how the world into which Jesus was born was ruled by a governor, emperor, and king. Yet this story reveals that you, O God, are the only true Sovereign – Almighty and Everlasting. We thank you that justice and righteousness are in your hands. We praise you for the peace you have promised. Most especially, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, who dwells among us full of grace and truth. Hear now our prayers, that all people may find healing, comfort and joy.

We pray for public officials, rulers, and leaders in our time: give them wisdom in decrees and decisions, a will for the common good, and the courage to work for peace in local communities and among the nations...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for all who work and watch this night: for those in hospitals and positions of public service; for those serving our country here and around the globe; for those in airports, trains, and bus stations; for those who work in shelters, hotels, and other places of hospitality...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for all who suffer this night: those who are sick and those who are dying; for one who is cold; for one who is lonely or grieving; for people who are hungry and thirsty; for all who struggle with addiction...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for families and friends: for those who are with us and those far away; for those who are traveling; for those who especially need guidance in this season; and for those in our memories who now dwell with you...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray, O God, with the multitude of the heavenly host, that through Jesus Christ your glory will lighten every darkness; that your peace will fill all.

We pray that those who live in the midst of war may instead live without fear and destruction; that those who live with the threat of danger in homes or on city streets may instead dwell in safety; and that all your creatures, and creation itself, may be restored and renewed.

Shine upon them and give them peace.

Conform our prayer to your will, and use us to accomplish your purposes, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Carol

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

#251

Invitation to the Offering

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Jesus Christ has shown us how to live: loving God and neighbor, sharing what we have, engaging in acts of mercy and justice. As we celebrate his birth, and wait in hope for his coming again, let us bring the offerings of our lives before him.

Giving of our Offerings to God

Offertory

"What Child Is This"

#219

***Doxology**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#95

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your purpose and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Your people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined. You have multiplied your people; you have increased our joy.

Your salvation shall be made known to the ends of the earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He was with you in the beginning; the Word made flesh. All things have come into being through him. In him was life, and the life was the light of the people. We rejoice as your people, for to us a child is born, to us a son is given; His name shall be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Light of the World.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of the bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood, that we might bring to all the people the good news of great joy, that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at the heavenly banquet.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

†Sacrament of Holy Communion

Carol	"The First Noel"	#245
Carol	"Away in a Manger"	#217
Carol	"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	#230

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Through it we proclaim the blessed hope – the appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sharing the Light

Carol

"Silent Night"

#239

*Benediction

Pastor: Go, singing a song to the God of our salvation. Sing of mighty deeds and glory. Join the heavenly chorus and sing:

People: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace."

Pastor: Sing of God's salvation from day to day.

People: Jesus Christ is born today!

*Postlude

"Joy to the World"

#246

*Please stand if you are able

✠Communion will be served by intinction. The United Methodist Church celebrates an open table and all are welcome to receive God's gift of grace.



Thank you for choosing to celebrate the birth of Christ with us tonight. If you are without a church home, we would love to have you become a part of our family here at First UMC.

– Pastor Chris



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