



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 24, 2022

The Nativity of Our Lord

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

The Angel Gabriel

Helen Marple-Horvat

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Loretta McCray – First Violin; Chris Johnston – Second Violin
Thomas Shaw – Viola; Madison Erskine - Cello

The Call to Worship

Leader: The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!

People: Praise be to God who has heard our cries.

Leader: Our souls sing out God's praise!

People: God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.

Leader: Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!

People: And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives. Amen.

The Hymn No. 234, stanzas 1-3, 6

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

1. 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;

Refrain

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

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; **Refrain**
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; **Refrain**
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **Refrain**

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of Surprising Love and Hope,
we come this evening to the manger,
gazing lovingly on the Child born
to bring hope to the world.**

**Open our hearts tonight as we hear the story anew.
Help us to be guided by the Light of Jesus Christ,**

that we may truly feel the power of your love
and bring that love, with joy, to all we meet.
In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Bob & Nancy Hundley and family

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.

May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready
the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

The Announcements

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter pages 815-816

Psalm 96

[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone.

All other responses will be sung by everyone.]

Ps. 96:13, 11-12
Gary Alan Smith

The Lord comes, the Lord comes, and
all cre - a - tion sings for joy.

Response

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
- 2 **Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;**
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare the Lord's glory among the nations,
the Lord's marvelous works among all the peoples!
- 4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,**
to be feared above all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols;
but the Lord made the heavens.
- 6 **Honor and majesty are before the Lord**
in whose sanctuary are strength and beauty.

Response

- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
- 8 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name!**
Bring an offering, and come into the courts of the Lord!
- 9 Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth!

Response

- 10 Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!
**The Lord has established the world, it shall
never be moved.**
The Lord will judge the people with equity.”
- 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- 12 let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy
- 13 **before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.**
**The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.**

Response

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

The Hymn No. 246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

The Homily

Treasuring Christmas

Dr. Matthew Bates

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love towards us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Antonio Vivaldi

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the highest

+ The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion,
remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:*

And so,

with your people on earth

and with all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
5
8 ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
12 Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
16 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

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.

William Mathias

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain!

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:
 All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

William Mathias

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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.**

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

The Communion Music

Panis Angelicus

César Franck

Todd Minnich, tenor; Madison Erskine, cello

<i>Panis angelicus</i>	The bread of angels
<i>Fit panis hominum.</i>	is the bread of men.
<i>Dat panis coelicus</i>	the bread of heaven
<i>Figuris terminum.</i>	gives end to all fears.
<i>O res mirabilis.</i>	Oh, what a marvel!
<i>Manducat Dominum</i>	The poor, the slave, the humble
<i>Pauper servus et humilis.</i>	now partake of the Lord.

+ **The Hymn No. 239** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.
4. 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!

The Benediction

The Choral Response

What can I give Him, poor that I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

The Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

J. S. Bach

+ Please stand, as able.

***Reminder! Help us know that you worshiped with us this evening
by signing the online attendance pad [here](#).***

***Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning
and throughout the week to make this worship possible.***

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20 - The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** 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: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

15 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.” **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, **19** and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.



Welcome!

Welcome to our Christmas Eve Service! We are delighted you are here to share in worship with us on this special night. If you are not actively involved in the life of another church, we invite you to join us regularly here at Centenary! Centenary United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation, extending hospitality and encouraging full participation of all, regardless of age, race, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, education, economic background, and physical or mental ability.

Online Giving Made Easy – No Account Needed

Poinsettias 2022



In Loving Memory of:

John Ochs by Rochelle and John Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Walter R. Bishop by Florence C. Bishop
John Burge Mingus by Barrett Brown
Our fathers, Edwin Golod and H. B. Rhame, Jr., by Frederic and Mitzi Golod
William R. "Buck" Haley and Centenary Friends by Joyce Haley
Ernie & Cheri Kara, Clifford Knutson, Alfred Oldenburg, Harrison Wagner,
Henry & Alice Knutson by Heidi Kara
Harry W. Lee by Nancy Lee and family
My grandfather, Leo Geisler, by Molly Monaghan
My nana, Jane Monaghan, by Molly Monaghan
Parents, Bruce B. & Louise P. Smith and Cecil E. and Elizabeth W. Ray, by Suzanne Ray
Herb Young by Mary Sue Sanderlin
Nancy Penman and Bette Fitting by Wendy Smith
Randall & Emma Speidel and Percy & Nonie Lee by Joe and Penny Speidel
Richard by Sharon Steele
Bob's mother, Frances E. Haaren, by Kathy Talley and Bob Blinn
Bob's father, Robert H. Blinn, Jr., by Kathy Talley and Bob Blinn
Kathy's parents, Forest S. & Mary Anne C. Talley by Kathy Talley and Bob Blinn
Kathy's grandmother, Dorothy H. Clements, by Kathy Talley and Bob Blinn
John and Earlene Pippin by Glenn and Peggy Thomsen
Oscar and Kathryn Thomsen by Glenn and Peggy Thomsen
Al Thrower by Meredith, John, and George Thrower
Charley Webber by Lou Webber
Donnie Wyatt by Leslie Wyatt

In Honor of:

The Matt Bates Family by Florence C. Bishop
2022 Centenary Administrative Council by Florence C. Bishop
Laura Nealley by Florence C. Bishop
Our Centenary friends by Rex and Mary Anne Dazey
Our mothers, Monique Golod and Libby Rhame, by Frederic and Mitzi Golod
Great Grandsons Ozzy, Zeke, & Dax by Leah Hundley
Our children and grandchildren by Troy and Jan Nelson
My family by Mary Sue Sanderlin
Centenary's wonderful staff by Pat Shipley
Helen Ryde and all faithful advocates for justice by Pat Shipley
Mary Sue Sanderlin by Meredith, John, and George Thrower
My friends in RVA by Leslie Wyatt