

Christmas Eve

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness, lay to hear the angels sing.*

Call to Worship

Leader: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.

People: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Leader: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
Christ the Lord.

People: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Leader: All authority is given to him in heaven and on earth.

**People: And these are his names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Let all the heavenly angels sing his praises:

People: "Glory to God in the highest!"

Leader: Let the whole world join to swell the angels' song:

People: "And peace to everyone on earth!"

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Unison)

**We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled.
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. Glory to God in
the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favor rests.**

Opening Prayer (Unison)

**Almighty God, as you made this night glad with the songs of
angels and filled it with the brightness of the true Light, so let that
Light shine among us, that we too may give you everlasting
praise; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

*Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5, 14

Special Music

Silent Night arr. The Piano Guys
Amy Marsh, cello
Garrison Atkinson, violin

The Christmas Gospel and Carols

Luke 2:1-20

Scripture Reading: And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol

What Child Is This

UMH No. 219

Scripture Reading: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH No. 238

Scripture Reading: And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Carol

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH No. 240

Scripture Reading: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Carol

Away in a Manger

UMH No. 217

Scripture Reading: And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child; and all that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Homily Rev. Ross Carter
Offering & Offertory *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UMH No. 230
Holy Communion *Divinum Mysterium* Raymond H. Haan
Amy Marsh, cello (b. 1938)
Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child C. Armstrong Gibbs
(1889-1960)

Lighting of the Candles

*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.*

Benediction

Leader: The Light has come into the world.

People: And the darkness shall not overcome it.

Leader: As the angels and the shepherds, let us glorify the babe
in the manger.

People: For tonight the manger holds our King!

*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!*

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

2018 Christmas Offering

An offering will be taken during the service tonight, the proceeds of which will be divided between Allied Churches of Alamance County and the church budget.

Front Street United Methodist Church



**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2018
8:00 p.m.**