

7:30 p.m.
FULL TEXT



Welcome to Christmas Eve at Epworth! We extend a special welcome to all guests who are worshipping with us this evening. For more information about our church, we invite you to visit our website at www.eumcrb.org. Sunday mornings our Contemporary service (9:15 am) offers ASL Interpreting, nursery care, and children's Sunday school classes. Please check the schedule for upcoming services.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, through Holy Communion, all are welcome at the table of the Lord.

Our Communion elements are wheat bread and unfermented grape juice. Gluten-free elements are available to the right of the altar.

✠ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ✠

Gathering Music

Let Christmas Begin ... arr. Joseph M. Martin

Chancel Choir

Go Tell It on the Mountain ... arr. Susan Geschke

Memorial Bell Choir

Welcome and Greeting

Todd

*Processional Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful ... arr. Joseph M. Martin (vs. 1, 3 & 6)

UMH 234

Chancel Choir & Memorial Bell Choir

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

Call to Worship

(from Cheryl Lawrie)

- L: We are here because we have heard a promise of peace
P: **and we have faith its day will come.**
L: We have heard a rumor of justice
P: **and we have faith its day will come.**
L: We have heard a whisper of hope
P: **and we have faith its day will come.**

L: We have heard a hint of love
P: **and we have faith its day will come.**
L: We have heard of the birth of the Christ-child
P: **and we have faith His day is here.**
L: Welcome to Christmas! Welcome to worship!

Reader 1:

Phil & Marylea Franz

Tonight we light all five candles:

for Peace, Joy, Love and Hope... and one to represent the presence of God's light through Jesus Christ. This season, these candles have reminded us of the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

Reader 2:

God-with-Us, Emmanuel, we open ourselves to you this night, to become those who help to shine that light of Christ wherever we are— in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

P: Fill us with your peace and light, make the world so calm and bright.

✠ LESSONS & CAROLS ✠

(all lessons read from the lectern)

Lesson

The Prophecy of Peace - Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Diana Young

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Anthem

Creation Will Be at Peace

Chancel Choir

J. Paul Williams; Anna Laura Page

Lesson

The Angel Visits Mary - Luke 1:26-35, 38

Linda Kauffman

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called

Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one!

The Lord is with you.”

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

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.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”

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 will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

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

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph (vs. 1, 2, 5 & 6)

UMH 215

1. To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.
“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news, good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.
2. For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest,
you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!”
5. “How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.”
The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High will come upon you shortly, your child will be God’s child.”
6. As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.
“Behold, I am your handmaid,” she said unto her God.
“So be it; I am ready according to your word.”

Lesson

The Angel Visits Joseph - Matthew 1:18-21

Kathy Shook

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Carol*Joseph Heard the Troubling News*

TUNE: PIAE CANTIONES

1. Joseph heard the troubling news: Mary was expecting!
What should he, a just man, do? He sought God's directing.
Joseph thought to send her home — leave her, without blaming;
Then an angel in a dream spoke of joy, proclaiming:
2. Go, take Mary as your wife; Joseph, don't you fear it —
God has formed a precious life by the Holy Spirit!
Mary soon will bear a son; you shall name him Jesus.
When the prophet spoke of him, he said, "God is with us!"
3. God of love, we too may face times of doubt and trouble.
May we know your daily grace, even when we struggle.
Just as Joseph answered, "Yes!" with new dedication,
We rejoice, for we've been blessed by your incarnation.

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

Gwen Osborne

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered.

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.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

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.

Carol*Celtic Noel ... Sondra Tucker*
Karen Mahaffie, flute

Memorial Bell Choir

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

Zoe Stayman

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom

God favors!”

Carol*Angels We Have Heard on High*

UMH 238

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Lesson

The Shepherds and the Angels (continued)

Glen Pruitt

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.'

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

1. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Meditation

The Baby's in the Manger

Rev. Vicky Starnes

Offering Prayer

Please sign the blue Connections Pad and pass it down the row.

Todd

*Offerings are given through cash and check, on-line giving, Texting at 302-488-0038
and by using our Giving Kiosk in the main lobby. There are Giving Cards in the pews to place in the plate, if you wish
Bless your heart for supporting our ministries!*

(This is spoken by pastor before offering is taken)

Dear God,

We cannot thank you enough for the gift of your Son.

Through your grace, you have given us everything, including our very lives.

On this night, we celebrate the miracle of Christmas!

But when the candles are blown out

when the ringing of the bells has ceased

when the angels and shepherds have gone home,

may we continue to shine your light into the world

through the giving of these offerings.

And so we offer you yet another gift:

our partnership to build your reign here on earth.

Amen.

Offertory

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen ... arr. Dobrinski

Memorial Bell Choir

(GIFTS NOT BROUGHT FORWARD)

*The Great Thanksgiving

Vicky

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.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time

you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our savior,

and at his birth the angels sang

glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on 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.

(Please be seated)

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem
and there found no room,
so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected.
As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born,
so 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.

Todd

As you Word became flesh, born of women, on that night long ago,
so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took 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.”

Vicky

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 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.

Todd

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 his 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

UMH 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 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.

Sharing Bread and Cup

Music during Communion *Gesu Bambino* ... F. H. Martens / Pietro Yon Chancel Choir
Carolyn Robinson, soprano

Communion Carols

Away in a Manger

UMH 217

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

UMH 218

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 all, from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

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.

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

✠ THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ✠

All Lights Out including Narthex and Hallways – KEEP CHRISTMAS TREES ON

Doug begins to play intro to Silent Night as Todd reads poem.

Vicky puts out altar candles

Todd reads from Chancel Center

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Sharing the Light of Christ

Lighting of Individual Candles

*Vicky gives instructions to congregation, candle light passes from the Christ candle to Vicky
and the ushers & then to the congregation as we sing:*

Carol

Silent Night

UMH 239

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 LIGHT OF CHRIST LEADS US INTO THE WORLD ☞

(All Lights on)

***Sending Forth** *(by Roddy Hamilton)*

Vicky

L: Believe: for light is now in the world
P: **Believe: for God has become one of us**
L: Believe: for Love is born in each of us
P: **Believe: for the manger is full**
L: Go and believe it is as the prophets said
and the blessing of Christmas of family, of friends
and of God be with you today
P: **We believe!**

***Sending Forth Carol**

Joy to the World (verses 1, 2 & 4)

UMH 246

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.
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, and wonders of his love.

*Postlude

Gloria! ... Jason D. Payne

Doug Yetter

Upcoming Services Times

Christmas Eve Services:

10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service

Sunday, December 30: Healing Service – One service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday's in January - One service at 10:00a.m.

Join us in February 2019 for this timely sermon series

It's Complicated: Dealing with Relationships in Today's World

Biblical Perspective on Love, Marriage, Family and Relationships

Human beings were created with an amazing capacity for love and relationship. But it's complicated. The simple lessons we were taught as children aren't quite adequate for navigating healthy relationships with family and friends in the 21st Century. From social media to modern families, even if you think you've got it figured out, healthy relationships can be challenging.

- Feb. 3 - Generations – Parents, Grandparents
- Feb. 10 - Couples & Singles – Married, Divorced, Widowed, Single
- Feb. 17 - Children and Siblings
- Feb. 24 - Friends and Co-workers

Bulletins for the month of December are sponsored in honor of her husband, Dennis' birthday, December 14, by Laurel St. Germain.

Thank you for donating poinsettias and funds toward the "Youth Rally." Lists of donation remembrances can be found in the narthex for those who have not received a copy. This is our effort to be good stewards of our environment and cost. Thanks for your understanding.

DVD and Broadcast Ministries: All Church Service at Epworth are presented using multimedia technology. The screens above the Chancel area are used for text, videos, photographs and live cameras. Each service is digitally recorded for archive purposes as well as for distribution to our homebound members on DVD. These recordings may also be broadcast or archived on our web page. Therefore; you may, at any time, be seen and recorded on camera - anywhere throughout the Sanctuary.

Assisting with today's service as

Sound: Ken Mahan, Sharon Wert, Josh Megee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman
Ushers: Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee
Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:

Ministers: The Church Family... *Lay Leader:* Gwen Osborne
Senior Pastor: Rev. Vicky Starnes ... *Associate Pastor:* Rev. Todd Shultz
Director of Music Ministries: Doug Yetter ... *Accompanist:* Linda Jo Hess ... *Coordinator of Caring Ministries:* Mickie McManamon
Communications & Technologies Manager: Kenneth Mahan ... *Office Manager:* Darlene Ford
Special Projects: Debbie Hunt ... *Administrative Assistant:* Diana Young ... *Sound Tech:* Josh Megee ... *ASL Interpreter:* Lynn Kohler
Preschool Director: Betsy Plowman ... *Nursery:* Cathy Crawford ... *Interim Cemetery Superintendent:* Jay Stevenson
Custodian: Wanda Hudson...*Maintenance:* Mike Harrigan



EPWORTH REHOBOTH BEACH a United Methodist Church

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

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Large-Print Bulletins &
Hearing Assist Devices are Available
Please see an Usher for assistance



American Sign
Language
at 9:15 Service



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worship@epworth
7:45 & 11:15 - Traditional 9:15 - Contemporary