

Wesley United Methodist Church

December 24, 2022

7:00 PM

Christmas Eve

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

For the safety of every worshipper, please observe the following guidelines regardless of your vaccine status.

- **Wear a mask covering your mouth and nose all the time during worship.**
 - **Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.**
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Prelude	William Ness, organ
What is this lovely Fragrance?	Harrison Oxley 1933-2009
At the Manger	Craig Penfield b. 1948 Nicholas Unkovic, organ
Symphonie sur de Noël's	Michael Richard Delande 1657-1726
Silent Night and The Three Kings from <i>A Nativity Suite</i>	Wilbur Held 1914-2015

Greeting & Announcement

*Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1-4) UMH 234

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.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

One: We have waited in the light of hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

[*The four Advent candles are relit.*]

Many: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

One: Let us sing to God a new song, and tell of God's salvation.

Many: We will declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

One: The Good News of great joy is now fulfilled!

Many: For unto us is born this day a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Christ.

One: We light the Candle of Christ, the Light of the World.

[*The Christ Candle is lit.*]

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors.

Hymn

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (verses 1 and 2)

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 men, 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.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles. We have ignored the promise of your kingdom. We get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may find the Good News of a Child born to us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask You to make us ready for His coming. Amen.

Hymn

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (verses 3 and 4)

UMH 218

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the 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 Offering

Offertory Anthem

Wesley Chancel Choir
David Potts, director
Harold Darke 1888–1976

In the Bleak Midwinter

*Doxology

UMH 221

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

*Hymn

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

TFWS 2098

The virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,

Refrain: And they say that his name is Jesus. He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom. He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious Kingdom. Oh, yes! Believer! Oh, yes! Believer!
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the baby was born, the angels sang
when the baby was born, the angels sang when the baby was born,

Refrain

The shepherds came where the baby was born, the shepherds came
where the baby was born, the shepherds came where the baby was born,

Refrain

The Wise Men came where the baby was born, the Wise Men came
where the baby was born, the Wise Men came where the baby was born,

Refrain

Message

Rev. Byungmoo Lee

Anthem

The Darkest Night

John Drum, 20th c.

Candle Lighting & Hymn

“Silent Night”

(Individual candles are lit while singing. Please tip your unlit candle and light it from the flame of the candle of the person next to you. The sanctuary lights will be dimmed during the hymn.)

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 streams 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.

* Departing Prayer: The Canticle of Simeon

One: The holy child of Bethlehem has come to us this night.

Many: We have welcomed the Prince of Peace.

One: Now, like Simeon, that righteous and devout man who looked forward to the consolation of Israel and who beheld the coming of our Emmanuel, we pray.

Many: God, let your servants now depart in peace, according to your word; for our eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation and for glory to all your children.

*Benediction

(Please extinguish your candle and put it in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.)

Postlude

Silent Night

William Ness, organ

Fred Bock 1939-1998

Worship Notes:

Advent Candle Lighting – by F. Richard Garland, The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries.

Prayer of Confession – *Worship & Song: Worship Resources*, Abingdon Press, 2011, 5.

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We welcome you to join us for Christmas Day worship, tomorrow at 10 am in the Sanctuary or online.

Following worship, we will gather together for a Christmas Luncheon.

Please join us and bring a dish to share.