

**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2022, 7:00 pm**

**THE CHURCH GATHERS**

**Preludes:** The Mountain View Ringers directed by Hadi Gibbons performing  
“Carillon for Advent” arranged by H. Dean Wagner  
“Angel’s Tidings” arranged by Cynthia Dobrinsky  
“T’was in the Moon of Wintertime” arranged by Kevin McChesney

**Lighting of the Candles**

**The Invitation:** Jo Lied

**Leader:** Welcome. On this, the most wondrous night of the year, we once again hear the Angels sing of good news of a great joy, that is for all peoples of every race and nation.

**People:** **Tonight, in the city of David is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

**Leader:** Lay down whatever heavy burden you carry and open your hearts and listen to the story of Jesus’ birth.

**People:** **May we hear the story of Jesus’ birth in a new spirit of hope, peace, love and joy. May our hearts and minds and the hearts and minds of our brothers and sisters around the world, be open once again to the power and meaning of his birth; and let God’s kingdom of love and justice begin to reign in our world. Amen**

**Carols:** “O Come All Ye Faithful” Hymnal # 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

Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee with love and awe.  
Who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord

“Joy to the World” Hymnal # 246

Joy to the World,  
the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,

Joy to the World,  
the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat,  
the sounding joy.

No more let sins  
and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns in fest the ground;  
He comes to make  
his blessings flow

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 Christmas Offering**

If you would like to make an offering online, see our [virtual offertory basket](http://www.mt-viewumc.org) at [www.mt-viewumc.org](http://www.mt-viewumc.org).

**Offertory:** "A Christmas Lullaby" arranged by Michael Helman Mountain View Ringers directed by Hadi Gibbons

### **Doxology**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as 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.**

## **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Carol:** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Hymnal # 240

Hark the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heaven adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead 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!"

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 man 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!"

**The First Lesson:** Marci Nickelsburg - Mary - Luke 1:26-35,38

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:** "All is Well" Chancel Choir accompanied by Cheryl Conklin directed by Cherese Brower

**The Second Lesson:** Jo Lied - Joseph - Matthew 1:18-24

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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce 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." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

**Carol:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Hymnal # 230

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see Thee lie;  
Above Thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in Thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above;  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together,  
Proclaim the Holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts

The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him,  
Still the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

**The Third Lesson:** Marci Nickelsburg - The Baby Jesus and the Manger - Luke 2: 1-7  
In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

**Carol:** "Away in the Manger" Hymnal # 217

Away in a manger,  
No crib for His 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,  
'Til 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 to heaven  
To live with Thee there.

**The Fourth Lesson:** Jo Lied - The Angels and the Shepherds - Luke 2: 8-16

Now in that same 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 he favors!"

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.

**Carol:** "Angels We Have Heard On High" Hymnal # 238

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

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

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

See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria In Excelsis Deo  
Gloria In Excelsis Deo

**The Fifth Lesson:** Marci Nickelsburg - "The Wisemen" - Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Carol:** "The First Noel" Hymnal # 245

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country far;

to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

**A Christmas Eve Meditation:** "No Returns" Rev. Wakeley

**Carol:** "What Child is This" Hymnal # 219

What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

**The Fifth Lesson:** Jo Lied - The Word Made Flesh - John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**The Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Song and Candle Lighting:** "Peace, Peace" (Silent Night)

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.

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 Blessing**

#### **Depart to Share Christ's Light:**

As you walk out, we invite you to carry the lit candles to the doors as a sign of the light of Christ carried into the world. Once outside the Sanctuary, please extinguish the flames and place your candles in the boxes near the doors.