

Order of Worship

Christmas Eve

NOON | 7:00PM

December 24, 2020

The liturgical color is white, receiving the gift of God in His Son.

*We lift up prayers for the community, our church family, staff, ministers,
and for the work of Christ in the world.*

Pre-Service Music

String Quartet

Prelude

“Meditation on Basque Noël”

arr. Desmond Ratcliff

Call to Worship

Noon

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

UMH #204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

7PM

“Love Came Down At Christmas”

Quartet, String Quartet, Organ

Welcome

Rev. Dr. George K. Howle

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Christ Candle

Blythe/Montgomery Families **Noon**

* Luke 2:1-20

Shuler Family **7PM**

Prayer for Advent

O Lord, may we continue to be alert as we joyfully celebrate your Son’s arrival into our chaos-filled world. As the Advent lights keep darkness at bay, may they also keep us from wandering from your ways. Amen

Congregational Response

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* Opening Hymn

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

UMH #234

* Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Meredith M. Dark

The Lord’s Prayer

* Hymn of Preparation

“Away In a Manger”

UMH #217

Anthem

Noon

“All Is Well”

arr. Smith/Kirkpatrick

Sally Burr, Soloist

7PM

“Christmas Day”

Wagner

Quartet, Hand Bells, Organ

Sermon

“Born To You This Day”

Rev. Howle

Service of Word and Table

UMH #12

(Communion Offering will benefit ZoeEmpowers, world missions).

Communion Reflection

String Quartet

* Closing Hymn

“Silent Night”

UMH #239

Ushers will light the first candle in each pew row. Please tilt the unlit candle to pass the light.

* Benediction

Rev. Howle

(Christmas Eve Offerings may be left in the plates as you exit..)

Postlude

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

arr. Larry Shackley

(* Please stand as you are able.

UMH #234**“O Come All Ye Faithful”**

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; *[Refrain]*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *[Refrain]*

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]*

UMH #217**“Away in a Manger”**

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.

UMH #239**“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 **floral arrangements** adorning the Chancel this Christmas Eve are given for the Glory of God and in honor of all first responders and healthcare workers during the Covid-19 pandemic by Roselle Williamson.

We are reminded that the shape of the poinsettia is a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem, leading the shepherds to the Christ Child. Its white leaves represent the purity of Jesus emphasizing the deep joy and solemn beauty of the forthcoming Holy Night. The evergreen branches symbolize our hope for an everlasting life with God.

Thank you to the following who provided musical offerings this day for our worship experience:

String Quartet: Stephen Williams, *Violin I*; Britney Brennan, *Violin II*, Wyatt Johnson, *Viola*; Laurel Urban, *Cello*; Lacy Tier, *Bass*.

Vocal Quartet: Heather Whitley, *Soprano*; Kim Alexander, *Alto*; Norman McQueen, *Tenor*; Terrence Piette, *Bass*.

Hand Bells: Denise Daniels, Glen Daniels, Darlene Rebeck, Leslie Wasserman; Jayne Smith, *Director*.

Musicians: Sally Burr, *Soloist*; Norman McQueen, *Music Ministry*; D. Scott Ferguson, *Pianist/Organist*.

We welcome those visiting with us and pray that you may experience the presence of Christ in our worship together.

Assisting in Worship**Ushers**

Noon Jerry Champion, Bill Thomas

7:00 Daniel Shuler, Jack Rebeck, Dabney Joyner, Judy Hall, Roger Hall, Greg Clemmons, Earnie Nitz
