

Order of Service 12.25.22
Christmas Day
Liturgical Color: White

Prelude

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
—arr. Hayesa/Wagner

Christmas Responsive Reading

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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, an on earth peace, good will toward men.

For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts,

To give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

And of his fullness have we all received, and grace for grace.

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Acolyte— Kalin B.

Welcome/Opening Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH #230

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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!

Verse 3

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.

Verse 4

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!

Announcements/Morning Prayer

INVITATION

Christ the Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

Anthem

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)
—Performed by Justin Harper
CCLI #5601640

Offering

Angels We Have Heard on High—arr. Page
Piano: Libby Putnam; Organ: Doug Parker

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSVUE)

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 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. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 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. 8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 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: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15 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." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, 19 and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Hymn of Preparation

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear UMH 218

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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.

Verse 3

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!

Verse 4

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.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and 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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. 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. 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." 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. 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 Father, now and forever. Amen. And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray: **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, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Taking the Bread and Cup
Communion Meditation-arr. Johnson

Closing Hymn
Go Tell It On The Mountain UMH 251

Refrain:
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 1
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. (Refrain)

Verse 2
The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Verse 3
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Benediction

Chiming of the Holy Trinity

Postlude- Hallelujah Chorus (from Messiah)
-Handel/arr. Smith

**Response is in bold.*

Ushers: Joe Patterson, Jimmy Warren
Greeter: Cecilia Meade



MERRY CHRISTMAS



The ladies' circles of Central would like to invite the women of the church to meet together on Monday, February 6th at 6:30 pm in the CAC.

Anyone interested in joining a ladies group is welcome to attend. We will discuss future projects and decide on a new name for this group.

Light refreshments will be served.

If you have any questions please contact Stephanie Wilson

(704-466-0187),

Amy Dixon (980-215-5757) or

Marie Brinkley (704-277-6961).

We look forward to seeing you in February!

2022 End of Year Giving Reminder

2022 Contributions must be postmarked by **12/31/22** or received in by **December 31**. Remember you can always donate online www.cumckm.org.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT ATTENDANCE

(12/18) 10:00a Service.....130

Operating Fund

Contributions 12/18 \$ 6,028.00

Contributions YTD \$ 383,526.84

Capital Improvements Fund

Contributions 12/18 \$0.00

Contributions YTD \$0.00

PRAYER LIST: PRAISES AND CONCERNS

Members in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Homebound: Jane Edwards; Barbara Bridges; Ruth Wilson, John & Evelyn Eagle; Marilyn Hamrick.

Military Personnel: SSGT Tyler Dixon-Marines; SSGT Jonathan Brucker-Army; SSGT. Joshua Brucker; Army; CAPT Alex Plonk-Air Force; S 1 Tyler Hellstrand-Navy; Abbey Wallace-Air Force (Afghanistan); SSG Colby Bailey—Army; LT Boone McDaniel, Navy; CAPT Wendell Bunch, Jr.—Army; CAPT Alex Young,—Air Force; PFC Matthew Oliveira—Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX.

Concerns (members/constituents/church-related concerns): Guidance in developing new ministries; our college students; Community Kitchen Ministry; Penny Norwood (knee surgery recovery) 10.10.22; Ray Robinson (surgery); Jim Ware (death) 12.6.22.

Concerns (friends/relatives/other concerns): All children in need; Samuel Smith (cancer) 9.30.19; Sidney Bridges (brain tumor) 9.19.21; Freida Grant 2.21.22; Sherry Curtis 4.20.22; Jennifer Wall 4.26.22; Parker Byrd 7.27.22; Clyde V. (motorcycle accident); Robert Childers, Sr., 9.22.22; Terry and Johnny Neil 10.17.22; Charles Bagwell 10.17.22; Tina Melton 10.24.22; Phyllis Sweezy, mother of David Sweezy (death) 11.15.22; Marsha & Carl Morrow 12.1.22; Buck Buckner (cancer) 12.1.22.