

Invitation

Pastor Adam

Pastor: *In Jesus Christ our Lord, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.*

All: **Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age—worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.**

Pastor: *Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

Offertory "Born in Bethlehem" Chancel Choir

* Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Holy Communion United Methodist Hymnal, page 9
Maddie Weatherall and Mackenzie Sanders, violin

* Carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" UMH 239

**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!**

Blessing Pastor Adam

Postlude "Joy to the World" Glenda Gray, piano
Ray Johnson, organ



Sunday, December 24, 2023 · 8:00pm · Christmas Eve

Welcome Pastor Adam

Call to Worship Steven Spell

Leader: *Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.*

People: **To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

Leader: *This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.*

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!**

Leader: *Let us go now to Bethlehem.*

Prelude "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Glenda Gray, piano

Prayer Steven Spell

* Carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" UMH 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 th'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 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!"**

Kids' Moments and Lighting the Christ Candle Adam Love

Kids: *The light of Christ.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* Carol "Come, Emmanuel"

**Come and speak to us, come and renew us,
Come and live through us, Emmanuel.
Grace to implore us, ever before us, come and restore us, Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel; come, Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel; come, Emmanuel.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 98:1-9

Leader: *O sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things! God's right hand and holy arm have gotten the victory.*

People: **The Lord has declared victory, and has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

Leader: *The Lord has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*

People: **All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Leader: *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;*

People: **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

Leader: *Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!*

People: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the Rule, the Lord!**

Leader: *Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell in it.*

People: **Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth. The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

Special Music "O Holy Night" Phillip Stover

* Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped

him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Sermon Pastor Adam

Special Music "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Landry Summar and Leslie Tatum

* Profession of Faith The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.