



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

A FAMILY – FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

4:00 PM

NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Metropolitan Memorial Campus

3401 Nebraska Ave NW Washington, DC

Welcome

Rev. Janet Craswell, Angela Pupino and
Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

Carol: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (verses 1, 3, and 6) **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!***

Refrain:

***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;
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n 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 giv'n
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]***

Call to Worship

Katherine Rosenthal

Animals came to prepare your bed
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!
Shepherds stood guard, marveled and said:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!
Angels sang to calm your cries
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!
And all the world gave one great sigh:
Ah, Lord Jesus, you have come!

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 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 the incarnate Deity,
Please 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!”**

Scripture Reading: ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7 **Grace Campbell**

Proclamation **Grace Campbell**

On this night, the waiting is over. God has acted,
just as the prophet Isaiah promised. Our Savior is born!

Carol: *Angels We Have Heard on High* **UMH 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!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Time for All Children

Rev. Janet Craswell

Prayer for Christmas

George Mancinelli

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus for ALL people, not just those in one place at one time. On this Christmas Eve, help us remember and rejoice again because Jesus was born. May we live every day remembering your love and care and showing that love and care to others. Amen.

The Story of Christmas



Reading One: A crowded village and lots of animals **George Mancinelli**

Imagine the village of Bethlehem, a quiet town just six miles from the big city of Jerusalem. On this night, the whole village is overflowing with people seeking a place to eat and a place to sleep. The animals, too, are bedding down for the night.

Carol: The Friendly Beasts

**Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.**

**"I," said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him my hay to pillow his head."
"I," said the cow, all white and red.**

**"I," said the camel, yellow and black,
"I carried the wise men on my back,
I brought you their gifts in the wise men's sack,
"I," said the camel, yellow and black.**

**Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts that they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.**



Reading Two: Mary and Joseph

Ruth Mancinelli

Two travelers come slowly up the road. It is Joseph and Mary from Nazareth. They must come to Bethlehem because it is Joseph's hometown, and the emperor decided everybody had to go to their hometowns to be counted. But it is late, and Mary is almost ready to have a baby. She is so tired. Where will they sleep? All the guestrooms are full. They decide to sleep with the animals.

Carol: *Mary Rode to Bethlehem* (tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

**Mary rode a donkey, a donkey, a donkey;
Mary rode a donkey, going to Bethlehem.**

**Joseph walked beside her, beside her, beside her;
Joseph walked beside her, going to Bethlehem.**



Reading Three: A special baby in a manger

Ruth Mancinelli

Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, we hear the cry of a newborn baby! Jesus is born! Since they have no crib, Mary and Joseph gently wrap the tiny baby in a bands of cloth and place him in the animals’ feed box, the manger.

Special Music: *Fum, Fum, Fum*

arr. Terry D. Taylor

Children’s Choir, directed by **Katelyn Neumann and Jacob Barker**, accompanied by **Bruce Caviness**



Reading Four: Shepherds and Sheep

Katherine Rosenthal

In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their sheep. It’s dark, and it’s cold, but the sheep need the shepherds to care for them. When baby Jesus grows up, he will say, “I am the Good Shepherd.” We are his sheep!

Sheep Song: *I Just Wanna Be a Sheep*

I just wanna be a sheep, baa, baa, baa, baa.

I just wanna be a sheep, baa, baa, baa, baa.

I pray the Lord my soul to keep,

I just wanna be a sheep, baa, baa, baa, baa.

[repeat]

Reading Five: Angels, Angels, Angels!

Henry Campbell

All at once, there is a great light! An angel says, “Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you good news; happy news for all people. Today in Bethlehem, God’s special baby was born. He is Christ, the Lord!” Then more and more angels appear praising God and singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere.” The shepherds take their sheep and run with joy to Bethlehem.

Carol: *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.***

***While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the
heavens there shone a holy light.***

[Refrain]

***The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth.***

[Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,

and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

[Refrain]



Reading Six: A star and some wise people

Adriano Lopez-Brown

Camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry the wise ones, the Magi. They are following a strange new star, a star so bright they know it must mean a King has been born.

Offertory: We Three Kings

UMH 254

Congregation will sing the first and last verses, and join in the refrain

**We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

Soloist sings verse about gold, then we sing Refrain

Soloist sings verse about frankincense, then we sing Refrain

Soloist sings verse about myrrh, then we sing Refrain

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.**
Refrain

During this carol, the ushers will collect the Christmas offering. This year's Christmas offering will go to support National UMC's ministry with compañeros – asylum-seekers from Latin America.

Reading Seven: The Spreading of the Light

Adriano Lopez-Brown

The Magi find a king, but not the kind of king they expected. Instead of a prince in a palace, they find a peasant baby. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense and healing myrrh, perfect gifts for a king and a savior. They followed the light of the star to find Jesus, the Light of the World.

After your candle is lit, please light your neighbor's candle.

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!*

Scripture Reading: John 1: 1-5, 14

Annabelle Stanton

Christmas Sending Prayer

Annabelle Stanton

Candles shine on this dark night
Glory to God in the highest!

Christ's light shines hope into our world
Glory to God in the highest!

God's love is with us now and always
Glory to God in the highest!

We go forth bearing the light of Christ.
Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen.

Please extinguish your candle after the reading

Benediction **Rev. Janet Craswell**

Carol: *Joy to the World* **UMH 246**

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing...***

***Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy...***

***No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found...***

***He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love...***

Families are welcome to come forward to take pictures of the nativity scene our children have created.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the children, youth, parents, and members of the National UMC community who led and participated in this year's Family-Friendly Christmas Eve service.

Friendly Beasts

Kinich Villalobos, baby camel

Henry Campbell, cow

Angels

Claire Bosta

Grace Campbell

Sarah Campbell

Darah Hemmer

Ruth Mancinelli

Elizabeth Stanton

Shepherds

George Mancinelli

Mateo Suros

Sheep

Katherine Rosenthal

Annabelle Stanton

Star Bearer

Citlali Villalobos

Magi

Evana Brown-Egue

Noah Robinson

Turk Suros

Holy Family

Kerfye Pierre Robinson, Mary

Darin Hemmer, Joseph

Jonah Hemmer, Jesus

Readers

Henry Campbell

Grace Campbell

Adriano Lopez-Brown

George Mancinelli

Ruth Mancinelli

Katherine Rosenthal

Annabelle Stanton

Children's Choir Directors

Jacob Barker

Katelyn Neumann

Soloists

Jacob Barker

Katelyn Neumann

Sarah Heisler

Organ & Piano

Bruce Caviness

A Tribute to Loved Ones

GIVEN BY

Eugenia Evans
The Vieth Family

Ann Michel
Carissa Miller
William Schofield
Alice Sartain
Terry and Wayne Rusch

Carolyn & Suzanne Clewell
Judy Edstrom
Nancy Riker

Leslye Wooley
Patricia Stolnacker
Stacy and Paul Krogh

Shirley Fall
Richard Tilley
The Dankovich-Argentieri Family
Laura Powell
Linda and John Derrick
Jane Schmitz
Kerm Towler
Jeanie Mah
Alexandra McPherron
Lois Weaver

Christmas 2022

IN MEMORY OF

John Evans
Raymond & Eunice Stokes
N. Jean Vieth
James & Phillys Albrecht
Allen Moffat
Pat and Elsie Schofield
Thomas William Parks (Father)
Tyler Christian Rusch
Departed Family and Friends
Marrion & Warren C. Clewell
My Parents and Brother
Temp Johnson
Carol Wissert
Robert J. Willis
Jeff Koch
Dr. Paul H.J Dot Krogh
Stephen Deaderick Potts
John Fall
Russell, Betty & Kim Tilley
Geoffrey Dankovich
Susan & Scott Harper
Parents and Loved ones
Mary Schmitz
Arlene Towler
Kathy Portus
Barry Spargo
My Beloved Kent Weaver

GIVEN BY

Eugenia Evans
Caroline Olago
The Dankovich-Argentieri Family
Stacy and Paul Krogh
Kerm Towler
John and Barbara Tate
Jeanie Mah

IN HONOR OF

Children
Charles Ologi Ouma
NUMC Church Leadership & Staff
Kippy Potts
Robert Towler
Our Children
Mary Jo Marchant
Our Gifted Guiding Musicians - We Love You

