



A FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Prelude *French Burgundian Carol* **Todd Beckham, piano**
Patapan (Willie Bring Your Little Drum) - Grant Colburn

Welcome **Rev. Janet Craswell**

Lighting of Advent Candles **Turk Suros**
ONE: How do we show love?

ALL: By sharing stories, playing together, and being kind.

ONE: By working for justice and fairness, and making sure everyone is included.

ALL: There are a million ways to show love.

ONE: So today we light the candle of love

**ALL: With God's help, may we bring love into
a weary world. Amen.**

Carol: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* **UMH 234, verses 1, 3, and 6**

**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 on Christmas morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]**

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Christ Candle **Citlali Villalobos**

One: Animals came to prepare your bed

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

One: shepherds stood guard, marveled, and said:

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

One: Angels sang to calm your cries

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

One: And all the world gave one great sigh:

ALL: Ah, Lord Jesus, you have come!

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 **Noah Cochran**

Proclamation **Noah Cochran**

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

**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,
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!”**

Talk about Christmas

Rev. Janet Craswell

Prayer for Christmas

Dylan Cochran

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus for all people, not just those in one place at one time. On this Christmas Eve, we joyfully remember how Jesus was born. Help us remember your love every day, and help us show your love to others. Amen.

The Story of Christmas



Reading One: A crowded village and lots of animals

Ian Cochran

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 sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket
warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
"I," said the sheep with curly horn**

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



Reading Two: Mary and Joseph

Adriano Lopez-Brown

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. 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 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

Grace Campbell

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 bands of cloth and place him in the animals' feed box, the manger.

Carol *Away in a Manger*

UMH 217, Verse 1

**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**

Special Music *Light a Candle for All to See* by Lloyd Larson

Children's Choir, directed by **Katelyn Neumann** and **Jacob Barker**, accompanied by **Todd Beckham**



Reading Four: Shepherds and Sheep Turk Suros

In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their sheep. It is dark and it is 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!

Citlali Villalobos

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

Noah Cochran

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.

Offering Carol: *The First Noel* UMH 245, Verses 3, 4, and 5

And by the light of that same star three Wise Ones came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went

[Refrain] 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. [Refrain]

Then entered in those Wise Ones three, full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense [Refrain]

During the offering carol, you are invited to use the QR code to make a contribution to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR brings aid and relief in disaster zones around the world. Cash contributions to UMCOR may be left in the red box where the two aisles meet at the middle of the sanctuary.

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.

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,



DONATE WITH QR CODE

**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**

Scripture Reading: JOHN 1:1-5, 14

Dylan Cochran

Christmas Sending Prayer

Henry and Grace Campbell

ONE: Candles shine on this dark night
ALL: Glory to God in the highest!
ONE: Christ's light shines hope into our world
ALL: Glory to God in the highest!
ONE: God's love is with us now and always
ALL: Glory to God in the highest!
ONE: We go forth bearing the light of Christ.
ALL: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!

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...**

Dismissal

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

Willa Dawson – bunny
 Lally Johnson –bunny
 Emelia Koch – baby camel
 Kinnich Villalobos – baby donkey

Angels

Dylan Cochran
 Elle Imperiale

Shepherds

Ian Cochran
 Noah Cochran
 Nora Dawson
 Wills Imperiale
 Mateo Suros

Sheep

Emmaline Bosta

Star Bearer

Claire Bosta

Magi

Grace Campbell
 Henry Campbell
 Sarah Campbell

Holy Family

Henry Edmondson – baby Jesus
 Madeline Brock – Mary
 Michael Edmondson – Joseph

Readers

Grace Campbell
 Henry Campbell
 Dylan Cochran
 Ian Cochran
 Noah Cochran
 Adriano Lopez-Brown
 Turk Suros
 Citlali Villobos

Children’s Choir Directors

Jacob Barker
 Katelyn Neumann

Piano

Todd Beckham

We welcome and thank all the children who did not know they would participate until this morning. Their names are not listed, but they are important too!

How do we make the love of God obvious? Here’s our good NEWS!

Nurture

We seek to make the love of God obvious through the ways we welcome and care for one another. Here are some upcoming community events:

February 13 Shrove Tuesday |Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner
 February 22 Be a greeter at the UMW’s Book and Bake Sale

Weekly Opportunities

- Learn how we offer warm hospitality on Sundays at 9 or 11am or online at 10am Sundays or 6pm Wednesdays.
- Join us any Sunday for free lunch @ Wesley Campus | noon.
- Submit a prayer request or call our emergency pastoral care line at 202-510-8555. Join a prayer call any weekday morning at 8am by calling 551-258-5131.

Education

National UMC is a learning community. Adults study the Bible together, discuss social justice issues, and learn spiritual practices that strengthen our faith and ability to serve in the world. Children and youth are cherished here, and encouraged to wonder, explore, and learn in open, creative environments that reflect

God's love. In addition to our regular Sunday school offerings (10 AM-10:55 AM at the Metropolitan Memorial campus) and on-going mid-week classes, here are some upcoming opportunities that we are excited about:

- January 7 New Members Class, 12:30-2 PM, Metropolitan Memorial Library
Youth Fellowship 5-7pm Metropolitan Memorial Room 201
- January 14 Liberating Faith Bible study, 5 pm, Wesley campus – just starting now!
- January 21 Youth Fellowship 5-7pm Metropolitan Memorial Room 201
- January 24 On-line discussion (3 weeks) of *Incompatible: How the Church Cast Out LGBTQ Christians and Where We Go Next* by Charlie Baber. National UMC affirms LGBTQ people. Will our denomination?
- February 15 Beginning of Lenten study
- February 25 Start of Confirmation Classes. Parents of youth in grade 6 and above contact apupino@nationalchurch.org for more information.

And this summer, don't miss

Vacation Bible School, June 24-28, 9 am-noon, ages 4 and up
Youth Service Week, July 8-11

Worship

9am and 11am Metropolitan, 11am Wesley, 6:30 Online Wednesdays

We come together to praise God and be nourished for the week ahead. In worship, God's spirit moves to transform us and transform the world.

- December 31 Celebration of Kwanzaa, 11am @Wesley Campus, followed by free community meal.
 - January 14 MLK Sunday featuring attorney, activist, and author Debbie Hines, *Get Off My Neck: Black Lives, White Justice, and a Former Prosecutor's Quest for Reform* (book release March 2024). Ms. Hines will offer the message at 9am Metropolitan Memorial followed by a 10am question and answer session, and then an 11am message at nearby Wesley Campus.
 - February 14 Lent Begins. Join us February 18 for the start of a series "A Sacred Voice is Calling." Do you dare follow where you feel led these days?
 - March 31 Easter Sunday. Join us the week before for Holy Week
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Service

During his ministry, Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed children, forgave sinners and sought out society's outcasts. We seek to continue his work for human wholeness by addressing both immediate needs and long-term sustainable solutions.

We engage in a variety of social justice ministries with both local and global partners. Join us in advocacy for Gun Violence Prevention, Literacy (Project Transformation), Affordable Housing (Washington Interfaith Network), Help with groceries and meals (Campus Kitchen). Visit our website to learn how to get involved.

- January 10 1-3 pm the dementia support group Club Memory offers a survivor's monologue entitled "Dementia Man."
- February 7 9 am to 3 pm, America Red Cross Blood Drive. Donors as well as hosts needed.



REMEMBERING & HONORING OUR LOVED ONES THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

Given By... In Memory of

Alexandra McPherron: Barry Spargo
Alice Sartain: Tom Parks
Ann Michel: James and Phyllis Albrecht
Art Rynearson: Our Parents
Bob & Jeri Weaver: Their parents
Carolyn and Suzanne Clewell: Our Parents
Marion and Warren Clewell
Cheryl Mickey: Robert Cheaney
Christian Martine: Adolph & Peggy Pedri
Circle 9: Mary Frances Walker
Dick & Carol Schleicher: Their families
Jeanie Mah: Kathy Portus
Joan Topalian: Her three sisters
Laura Harper Powell: Susan and Scott Harper
Marla Bosta: William Krueger
Mary Jo Marchant: Her brother and parents
Mary Rollefson: Jeanie Murphy
Nancy Riker: Temp Johnson
Tony Brown: Mike Heffner
William Schofield: Patricia Schofield
Sharis Pozen: Mary and Burleigh Arnold
Shirley Fall: John Fall
Stacy Krogh: Paul H J Krogh & Dorothy Krogh
Stephen D. Potts
Terry and Wayne Rusch: Tyler Christian Rusch
The Vieth Family: Ray and Eunice Stokes;
Richard and Jean Vieth

Given By... In Honor of

Alexandra McPherron: Shirley Fall
Alice Sartain: John Sartain
Bob & Jeri Weaver: Their children and 5
grandsons
Cheryl Mickey: Marjorie Cheaney and John
Mickey
Dayspring Choir: In Honor of Rev. Grayland
Snead, Jr
Eugene Beye and Rev. Janet Craswell: In
memory and honor of their parents
Jeanie Mah: Heidi Holgate, Rev. Grayland Snead,
Jr, and Rita Guenther
John & Barbara Tate: Their children,
grandchildren, and Caralee
Mary Jo Marchant: Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sheldon and Sue Smith: Rev. Dr. William A. &
Nancy Holmes
Stacy Krogh: Irene Potts & Rev. Grayland Snead,
Jr
Susan Staines: My Husband Verdon Staines
Terry and Wayne Rusch: Departed Family and
Friends
The Duroski-Leidl Family: In Honor and Joy of our
United Methodist Church Family
William Schofield: Elsie Schofield

