

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.



.....
*United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond*
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REV. GEORGE RAGSDALE, PASTOR
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PRELUDE

"The First Noel"

arr. Pethel

Organ/Piano duet by Becky and Laura Beatty

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Margie Ligon

Christ is born; give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!

Christ is now on earth; exalt him!

O you earth, sing to the Lord!

O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"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;***

***Refrain: 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)***

*OPENING PRAYER

***O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season
when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.***

***Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day
and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us.***

Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.

Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts.

Glory to God in the highest,

***and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

CHORAL ANTHEM

"For Unto Us a Child is Born"

Patti Drennan

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,
Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Now the wolf will dwell with the lamb, the leopard will lie with the kid.
The calf and young lion will play in peace, and the little Child will lead them all.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,
Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. The Child is born.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

HOMILY

Rev. George Ragsdale

HYMN OF REFLECTION

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

***Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.***

***Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning
new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.***

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

CONFESSION

***Lord of Light and Hope, our minutes and hours have been swallowed up in
preparation for this night and for the coming day. We have been so caught
up in the preparations that we have pushed aside the wonder of what you have
done for all Creation. Forgive our distractions and center our hearts on the
miracle of your presence with us. May the songs of the angels, the surprise of
the shepherds, and the joy of the Holy Family fill us with hope in your
never-changing love for us. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Hymnal No. 17-18)

THE LORD'S PRAYER No. 895

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

***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.***

***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!***

***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.***

***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!***

SOLO

"O Holy Night"

by Adolphe Adam

Solo by Sally Bashant

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!"

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand;
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, To our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Through it may we await in blessed hope for the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to share the light of your love with others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy 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!***

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN

"Joy to the World"

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

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

*POSTLUDE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
Piano Duet by Becky and Laura Beatty

arr. Carter

****Please stand as you are able***



Tonight's Christmas Eve offering will support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, working to respond to the devastated island of Puerto Rico, a commonwealth of the United States. On September 20th 2017, a Category 4 hurricane plunged the island into one of the largest humanitarian disasters in US history. Your offering can make a great difference to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Additional donations can be made directly to UMCOR's Domestic Disaster Response Advance #901670 by visiting www.umc.org.



CRUCIFER: Paloma Shrauder

BIBLE BEARER: Charlotte Smith

ACOLYTE: Henry Southard