

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2018 – 4:00 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

*Christmas Selections*  
*"Coventry Carol"*  
*"The First Noel"*

Elizabeth Davis  
Larry Bradmon, horn  
Doug Moody, saxophone

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. George Ragsdale

The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!

***Praise be to God who has heard our cries.***

Our souls sing out God's praise!

***God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.***

Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!

***And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives.***

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 234

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (stanzas 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;  
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

***Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son.  
Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright  
beams of mercy and truth; and so direct our steps that we may ever walk  
in the way revealed to us, as the shepherds of Bethlehem walked with  
joy to the manger where he dwelled, who now and ever reigns in our hearts,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

THE NATIVITY

Mary and Joseph join the nativity

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN

*"Away in a Manger"*

***Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.***

***The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.***

THE ADORATION

Luke 2:8-20

Angels and Shepherds join the nativity

HYMN

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

***Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.***

***Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

***Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)***

THE VISITATION

Matthew 2:1-2, 8-12

The Wise Ones join the nativity

HYMN

*"We Three Kings"*

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

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

HOMILY

Rev. Kristen Surratt

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

Music during Communion

*"I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day"*

Brian Kelso, solo

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


Postlude on *"Joy to the World"*

Gordon Young

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



Our Christmas Eve offering will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief designated to Disaster Response and Recovery - Advance #901670. All monies collected will be given to UMCOR and used to support efforts responding to the natural disasters in the U.S.



**CRUCIFER:** Summer VanGastle

**BIBLE BEARER:** Carsyn Redmond

**ACOLYTE:** Elle VanGastle