

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2018 – 6:00 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*  
String Quartet

Margie Ligon

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

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" (stanzas 1, 2, 3 & 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.***

***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.***

CHORAL ANTHEM

*"What Child is This?"*  
with Amanda Turner, violin

arr. Jay Rouse

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

HOMILY

Rev. George Ragsdale

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Tiny Miracle"

by Pepper Choplin

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

Communion Music

String Quartet

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

"Still, Still, Still"

"Away in a Manger"

"Lo, How A Rose"

arr. Elliot Del Borgo

arr. Mark Hellem

arr. Joanne Martin

arr. Joanne Martin

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

Fanfare on *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

Gordon Young

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

**CRUCIFER:** Paloma Shrauder

**BIBLE BEARER:** Adam Lowrance

**ACOLYTE:** Hayes Andrews

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.