

UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Christmas Eve Worship- Dec. 24, 2021
10:30 P.M. Zoom Service
Pastor Michelle Mejia



Ugandan Nativity Scene

Prelude

Welcome to Our World

Chris Rice

John Gauthier - baritone, Dana N. Scott - piano

Welcome

Call to Worship

**Rejoice! I bring good news for all people. Unto us a child is born. Alleluia!
Tonight the angels sing on earth. Glory to God in the highest!**

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH #234

Verse 1

Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;

[Chorus]

Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us
Christ, the Lord

Verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest;

[Chorus]

Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him;
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord

Lighting of the Christ Candle



Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH #240

Verse 1

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 th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 3

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man 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!"

Prayer for Illumination

Glorious God, in Jesus your grace appears, bringing salvation to all. Help us to ponder your words of love by the light of your Spirit, that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace and welcome Christ in our world. Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 9:1-7 and Luke 2:1-20
(*You may follow the text below.*)

NRSV

Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

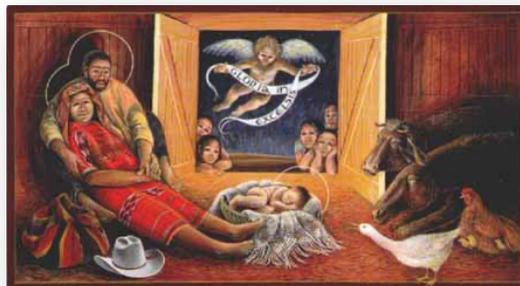
UMH #218

Verse 1

It came upon a midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all
From heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Verse 2

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.



John Guilian, Guatemalan Nativity, 1990

Christmas Reflection

Meditation Moment

In the Bleak Midwinter

Prayers of Intercession

(From *Feasting on the Word* and is listed below.)



Malaysian: Hanna Varghese, God Is with Us

Special Music

Worship Christ
Aldersgate Choir

Lloyd Larson

Sharing the Light

Silent Night

UMH #239

Verse 1

**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.**

Verse 3

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth.**

Blessing

May Christ be your light, this night and forevermore.



Isaiah 9: 1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to

deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious and Holy God,
On this night, we have heard how the world into which Jesus was born
was ruled by governor, emperor, and king.
Yet this story reveals that you, O God,
are the only true Sovereign—Almighty and Everlasting.
We thank you that justice and righteousness are in your hands.
We praise you for the peace you have promised.
Most especially, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
the Light of the world,
who dwells among us full of grace and truth.
Hear now our prayers of intercession,
that all people might find healing, comfort, and joy.

We pray for public officials, rulers, and leaders in our own time:
Give them wisdom in decrees and decisions, a will for the common good,
and the courage to work for peace in local communities and among the nations ...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for all who work and watch this night:

for those in hospitals and positions of public service;
for those serving our country here and around the globe;
for those in airports, trains, and bus stations;
for those who work in shelters, hotels, and other places of hospitality ...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for all who suffer this night:
those who are sick and those who are dying;
for one who is cold;
for one who is lonely or grieving;
for people who are hungry and thirsty;
for all who struggle with addiction ...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for families and friends:
for those who are with us and those far away;
for those who are traveling;
for those who especially need your guidance in this season;
and for those in our memories who now dwell with you ...

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray, O God, with the multitude of the heavenly host,
that through Jesus Christ your glory will lighten every darkness;
that your peace will fill all in all.
We pray that those who live in the midst of war
may instead live without fear and destruction;
that those who live with the threat of danger in homes
or on city streets may instead dwell in safety;
and that all your creatures, and creation itself,
may be restored and renewed.

Shine upon them and give them peace.

Conform our prayers to your will,
and use us to accomplish your purposes,
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost (p. 22). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.