

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MOORESTOWN
December 24, 2020

6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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.

PRELUDE

Selected Carols

Adult Handbell Choir

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH

RECOGNIZING GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.

People: And on earth peace, good will toward all people.

Leader: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

People: Glory to God on High.

Leader: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all people.

***OPENING HYMN 234** *O Come, All Ye Faithful, vs. 1,3,6* words printed below

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray together.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (in unison)

We praise you, hidden God, that in Jesus Christ, you have come to us to speak your Word of love and life. Touch us with unearthly joy, like the singing of angels; fill us with wonder, like the eyes of children; teach us to humble ourselves before you, like the worshipping Magi. May our journey to the manger be only the beginning of a lifetime of service to Jesus our Christ. Amen.

***HYMN OF JOY 238** *Angels We Have Heard on High* words printed below

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The UM Hymnal: 895

PRAYER RESPONSE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* The UM Hymnal: 230, v.4

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!*

INVITATION FOR OFFERING

GOD'S WORD TO US

Luke 2:8-20

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, ¹² 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, ¹⁴ 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.

SERMON

"To You!"

Pastor Tom Korkuch

*LIGHTING FROM THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

People: We will let the light of Christ shine in us.

Please tilt only the unlighted candle to receive the flame. *Please do not allow young children to hold candles unaided.*

***THE HYMN OF PEACE 239** *Silent Night, Holy Night* words printed below

Silent Night, Holy Night will serve as tonight's benediction. Please remain in the pews until the hymn has ended; then extinguish your candles before leaving the sanctuary at the invitation of the ushers.

*THE POSTLUDE

SONGS

O Come, All Ye Faithful Vs. 1, 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.

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) *(Public Domain)*

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)

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (refrain)

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. (refrain)
(©1964 Abingdon Press)

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!
(Public Domain)