

Gathering & Welcoming God's Presence

Prelude

Jean Okuye

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader; Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.

People; In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

Leader; Now, there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

People; God is truly with us. We are not alone.

All; Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH#234

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,

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.

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

Reading 1; The Prophecy of the Messiah

John 1:1-2, 4-5

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Reader One: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "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" (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "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." (Isaiah 9:7).

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

Light the Candle of hope, peace, joy, love, and the Christ candle.

Reading 2; The Coming of Jesus Is Announced to Mary and Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25

UMH#250 Once In Royal David City

Once in Royal David City stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed, Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a cradle, and his cradle was a stall with the poor the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

Reading 3; The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-5

UMH#230

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 street shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Reading 4; Jesus is Born

Luke 2:6-7

UMH#217 Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky look down where He lay,

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Reading 5; Jesus' Birth is Announced to the Shepherds

Luke 2:9-14

UMH#218 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
It came upon the 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 men, from heaven's all gracious
King. The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

UMH#245 The First Noel
The first noel the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a
cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is
the King of Israel

Reading 6; The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus

Luke 2:15-18

Reading 7; The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus

Matthew 2:1-11

UMH#245 The First Noel
And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from county
far. To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star
wherever it went. Noel, noel, noel, noel .Born is the King of Israel.

Poem; (The Gifts) Pastor Kalo

Closing Hymn; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing UMH#240
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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King." "Christ, by highest
heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

UMH#239 Silent 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.

BENEDICTION

Livingston United Methodist Church
Show God's Love by Accepting, Supporting, and
Serving All People

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th, 2024



Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Pastor Kalo's contact: Cell: (510) 978-9774
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