

Solomons United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2018



Welcome to Solomons United Methodist Church.

Thank you for worshipping with us as we celebrate our Savior's birth. Everything that you need to follow tonight's service can be found on the screen and in this bulletin. Know that children of all ages are warmly welcome in worship.

We will celebrate communion and all are welcome to receive. As we hear the timeless story of Christ's birth, we will light candles to represent those persons in the story. Then we will light our own candles and sing to celebrate Christ's arrival in our world.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice for God is with us - Emmanuel.

All: **In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.**

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

All: **God is truly with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

The highest most holy
Light of light eternal
Born of a virgin,
A mortal he comes
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!

Chorus 1

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

Verse 3

Yea Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

Opening Prayer (in 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.

A Savior is Promised

Isaiah 40: 1-2 & 11:1 -9

Pew Bible pages 581 & 558

Song

Hearts Waiting (Joy to the World)

Hearts waiting waiting on a Savior
Come oh come Emmanuel
Hear prophets speaking of the promise
Come oh come Emmanuel
A light of glory filled the sky
And we heard the angel choir
Joy to the world
Joy to the world
The Lord has come
The Lord has come to us
Joy to the world
A Savior for all
The Lord has come
The Lord has come to us

Come oh come Emmanuel
Our Redeemer God is with us God is for us
Come oh come Emmanuel
The doors of heaven open wide
Can you hear the song inside
Joy to the world
Joy to the world
The Lord has come
The Lord has come to us
Joy to the world
A Savior for all
The Lord has come
The Lord has come to us
And He shall reign forever and ever
He shall reign forever
And He shall reign forevermore

Verse 2

Messiah ruler of the nations

The Annunciation

Luke 1:2 6-38 and Matthew 1:1 8-25

Pew Bible Pages 831 and 783

Music for Reflection

The Journey to Bethlehem

Luke 2: 1-5

Pew Bible page 832

Hymn *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*

Verse 1

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 streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2: 6-7

Pew Bible page 832

Hymn *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

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 hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Hail th' incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 2

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see

Verse 3

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all he brings
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2: 8-14

Pew Bible Page 833

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 heav'nly song?

Refrain

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

Refrain

The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus

Luke 2: 15-18

Pew Bible Page 833

Hymn

What Child is This

Verse 1

What Child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping
This this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste haste to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary

Verse 2

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading

Nails spear shall pierce Him through
The cross be borne for me for you
Hail hail the Word made flesh
The Babe, the Son of Mary

Verse 3

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh
Come peasant king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him
Raise raise the song on high
The Virgin sings her lullaby
Joy joy for Christ is born
The Babe, the Son of Mary

Offering

[Today's offering goes to The Board of Childcare, a non-profit human resource organization]

Message

Rev. Dottie Yunger

Prayer of Confession and Pardon

All: Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light. We confess that we find your god news frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises. We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ, partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world. Forgive us, break us, remake us. Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming. Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives. Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.

Leader: The true light that enlightens all has come into the world. That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out. This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

All: Thanks be to God!

Communion Liturgy

see screen

The Table

see screen

Communion

*[Communion is open to **EVERYONE** in attendance. Take a piece of bread and dip it into the juice provided for you. Gluten free is available upon your request.]*

Candle Lighting

Silent Night, Holy Night

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

Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

Verse 3

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

Verse 2

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight

Responsive Prayer (words on screen)

Women: The people walking darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Men: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Women: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Men: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Verse 1

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

Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Verse 4

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
Joy to the world joy to the world
He is come He is come

Verse 2

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy

Benediction

Postlude



Merry Christmas
for unto us a child is born

Thank you

**To all the Christmas Eve Musicians and Vocalists
Greeters, Scripture Readers, Communion Assistants, and Offering
Assistants.**

Rev. Dottie Yunger - Lead Pastor

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Drop-in Office Hours

**Monday - Thursday
9am - 1pm**

Please use the intercom when the doors are locked.

Sunday Worship Service

10am Sunday School (pre-k through 5th grade)
10am Blended Worship Service

Here's What's Happening Weekly

Monday: Yoga 9am
Tuesday: Pilates 9am
Round Dancing 5:30 - 7pm
Wednesday: Mighty Mamma's 9:30 - 10:30am
Thursday: Pilates 9am
More Tasty Blessings Community Dinner 6 - 7pm (Dec - Feb, June - Aug)
Friday: Mighty Mamma's 9:30 - 10:30am

Dates to Remember

December 21 - January 1st Office Closed
December 27th More Tasty Blessings Community Dinner 6 - 7pm
December 30st Joint Community Service - Zion UMC, Lexington Park 10am
January 3th More Tasty Blessings Community Dinner 6 - 7pm
January 6th Epiphany Sunday/Star Service 10am

New Sermon Series beginning Sunday, January 13, 2019

Greater Gifts

This series focuses upon lifting up the gifts in our congregation, and then acting together as one body with many interconnected parts. This body works as a cohesive unit to reach out beyond the walls of the church and bring people to know and receive the love of God. This is how we respond to the call to "see all the people." Making disciples for Jesus Christ begins with having a heart for all God's people. That means seeking out and engaging people outside the church walls - sharing our gifts with them, and celebrating the gifts they share with us.
