



CHRISTMAS

at Athens First UMC

Children's Candlelight Service

December 24, 2025 | 3:00 p.m.

The Worship of God

*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks the text in **bold** type.

Large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. Please ask a member of our Welcome Team for assistance.



THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In loving memory of Drucye and Frank Casey and Loy and Gene Miller by Laura and Jim Miller and Amanda Page Woodall.

Enjoy the sounds of the season with pre-service organ music.

PRELUDE

“The Nativity” | Jean Langlais

Raina Wood, Organist

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

UMH 240 “Hark! the Herald Angels” | MENDELSSOHN

**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.”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we 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.”**

Songs of Christmas

“I Want to Go to Bethlehem” | Maria Pooler

“Animals in the Barn” | The Kuhlman Sisters

Sung by the Cherub Choir

*HYMN

UMH 230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” | ST. LOUIS

Verses 1, 2 and 4

During the hymn, parents please meet Cherub Choir on the altar steps.

**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.**

**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 all on earth!**

**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!**

Jesus' Birth Foretold

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:14 | Burch Wilson

“Baby Jesus Born Today” | IsaBeall Hudson

“Sleep, Baby Jesus” | Jeremy Russell

Sung by the Sunshine Choir; Natalie Smith, flute

***HYMN**

UMH 245 "The First Noel" | THE FIRST NOEL

Verses 1, 2 and 4

During the hymn, parents please meet Sonshine Choir on the altar steps.

**The first Noel the angel 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.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

Jesus is Born

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1, 3-5 | Burch Wilson

Luke 2:6-7 | Adelyn Newell

"Ring the Bells" | Karen Crane and Jennifer Klein

Sung by the Lyric Choir with 4th Grade Chimes

Nativity Processional

HYMN

UMH 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful” | ADESTE FIDELES

**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.**

**True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten not created;
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;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.**

**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

“Mary Had a Baby” | Traditional

“Come and Worship” | Ruth Elaine Schram

“Arise Shine” | Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo
Sung by the Joy Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-11 | Ruby Dasher

Luke 2:12-14 | Chuck Stewart

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

OFFERTORY

“Behold That Star” | Thomas W. Talley, arr. Becki Slagle Mayo

Sung by the Celebrate Choir

Soloists: Adelyn Newell and Arthur Ullrich, Lillian Rabe and Peyton Presley,
Harrison Rainey and Ruby Dasher

“May My Light Shine” | Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo

Sung by the Lyric and Celebrate Choirs

The Lighting of the Candles

As the Light of Christ is passed, tilt your unlit candle
to your neighbor's upright lit candle.

HYMN

UMH 239 “Silent Night” | STILLE NACHT

**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!**

***HYMN**

UMH 246 “Joy to the World” | ANTIOCH

**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.**

**Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.**

Interlude

**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.**

BENEDICTION

Please allow children’s choirs to exit the Sanctuary first.

POSTLUDE

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella” | Keith Chapman

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHOIR PICK-UP

*Joy, Lyric, and Celebrate Choirs can be picked up downstairs
in the Music Suite.*

*Cherub (3s) and Sonshine (4s), please return robe and candle
to your drop off location.*

Children's Music Ministry Team

Cherub Choir | 3s

Audrey Vazquez, Ashleigh Woodruff,
Ann Orr, Gail Walton
Collins Wilson, youth assistant

Sonshine Choir | 4s

Amy McCollum, Hallie McCollum, Jessie Wood,
Steven Dasher
Dawson Presley, youth assistant

Joy Choir | Kindergarten

Patti Pitts
Rosemary Belger, accompanist
Vera Mae Wood, youth assistant

Lyric Choir | Grades 1-2

Josh Luke, Beth Rector, Megan Presley,
Stuart McCurry
Cathy Felton, accompanist
Avery Rook, youth assistant

Celebrate Choir | Grades 3-4-5

Erin Towe, director
Sylvia Arant, accompanist
Rebecca Brodrick, youth assistant

Children's Music shepherds

April Pilcher
Beth Rector

Janis Maxwell | Director of Children's and Student Music Ministry

Dates to Know

Thursday, December 25 - Friday, December 26 | Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 28 | One Service Only at 11:00 a.m.

Monday, December 29 - Thursday, January 1 | Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 4 | Kids Sunday School Resumes

Wednesday, January 7 | Children's Choirs Rehearsals Resume*

Wednesday, January 7 | Churchwide Chili BINGO*

Thursday, January 8 - Tuesday, January 13 | Church Photo Directory Appointments*

**Register for these events by visiting athensfirstumc.org*

WAYS TO GIVE



OFFERING PLATE:

Fill out the envelope
located in your pew.



ONLINE:

Scan to be taken to Realm,
our online giving platform.



TEXT-TO-GIVE:

Text "AFUMCTTG"
to 73256.

FOLLOW UP WITH A MINISTER

Rev. Jeremy Lawson | Senior Minister
jeremy@athensfirstumc.org | 404-304-3574

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby | Associate Minister
natalee@athensfirstumc.org | 404-414-1701

Rev. Montana Hamby | Associate Minister
montana@athensfirstumc.org | 770-633-3140

Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson | Associate Minister
nancy@athensfirstumc.org | 762-233-4761

PRAYER REQUEST? | Please visit our website at athensfirstumc.org/congregationalcare and fill out a form to submit your prayer request. If you desire for the request to be shared with our Prayer Ministry team, please indicate that in your submission. Prayer requests can also be made directly via email prayer@athensfirstumc.org.

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