



ST. JOHN'S  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

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Richmond † Texas

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER, 21 2025  
8:30AM & 11:00AM**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVE WORSHIP**

You are invited to use this bulletin during our live worship service at 11:00am on Sunday morning. To access our live worship, please [click here](#).

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalms 80*)

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts;

**People**: **let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,

**People**: **the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

**All**: **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

*"The First Noel"*

#245

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.

And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

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.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full rev'rently upon the knee,  
And offered there in His presence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

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**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;\* The third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\*\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy ghost! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**8:30** Linda Seay and Pauline Storey

**11:00** King Family

Reader: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grand child. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

We light these candles of HOPE, LOVE, JOY and now one with PEACE in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. May the GIFT of CHRISTmas grant us a PEACE only God can give.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

### SONG OF REFLECTION

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* #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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!

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;  
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 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 we 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!

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## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### BAPTISM: *Charlotte Louise Vaughn*

*Parents: Austin & Claire Vaughn*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS and TITHES

(Thank you for your generosity! To contribute electronically, please see the QR code.)

### SHARING OUR GIFTS

*"Gesu Bambino Medley"*

Dean Jones

### DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Luke 2:13-14*

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

### SERMON

*"Assuring Peace"*

Rev. Richard Luna

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

### SONG OF INVITATION

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"* #238

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

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?

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

See Him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.

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## SENDING FORTH

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Be Born in Us"*

Be born in us, O Holy Child,  
And let the light of Your love shine within our lives.  
Be born in us, O Prince of Peace,  
Let the hope You bring this world be born in me.

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## GOING FORTH

Blessed by God's love and strengthened by God's Grace,  
let us be the church to the people we are with. Amen.

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*The altar flowers are given by Pat Ellis to the glory of our  
Lord and in memory of her father, Pat Bryan, on his  
birthday.*

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*QR Code provided for your tithes and offerings.  
Thank you.*

