

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS *(sing the first and last stanza of each, as needed)*

- “The First Noel”.....NO. 188
- “Angels We Have Heard On High”.....NO. 191
- “Away in a Manger”.....NO. 197
- “Go Tell it On the Mountain”NO. 203

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES.....Dr. Steven Bell

As we sing Silent Night together, we will dim the lights and Dr. Bell will light the candles of the ushers gathered at the Altar. The ushers will then light the candles of those nearest the aisle in each row. The first person in each row will light the person’s candle next to them, and so on, until all the candles have been lit. PLEASE REMEMBER: keep the lighted candle upright to prevent spilling hot wax, and tip the unlighted candle towards it to light it. Please extinguish the lit candles and place them in the receptacles as you leave.

† HYMN.....“Silent Night”.....NO. 199

† BENEDICTIONDr. Steven Bell

† CHORAL BENEDICTION.....“Hallelujah” from *Messiah*Chancel Choir
George Fredrick Handel Chamber Ensemble

POSTLUDE.....“Toccata” from *Symphony No. 5*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
Charles-Marie Widor



THE LITURGICAL BANNER FOR CHRISTMAS is given to the glory of God and in memory of Vivian Taylor Rees Pullen by Friends and Family.

THE WHITE POINSETTIAS UNDER THE CROSS are given in loving memory of Mary Edna Adams Brossette and Dianne Rose McCollum Brossette by their families.

† *Those who are able may stand.*

OUR CHRISTMAS WISH FOR YOU

*May the joy of Christmas bless you with peace and contentment and His everlasting presence.
May the spirit of Christmas so fill your hearts that He will guide you in your every way
and give you strength for your every burden.
May His love so touch your lives that you will love all His children.
May the Good Lord bless you, everyone, and those whom you love everywhere!*

Senior Pastor: Dr. Steven Bell • Executive Pastor: Rev. Matthew Hulbert
Associate Pastor: Rev. Kathy Wafer • Associate Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Kidd • Associate Pastor: Dr. Will K. Andress
Associate Pastor: Rev. Emily Blair
Director of Music: Dr. David Hobson • Associate Director of Music: Dr. Alison Beck • Principal Organist: E. Ray Peebles



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Eve • Service of Holy Communion

FOUR IN THE AFTERNOON & SIX IN THE EVENING

4:00: Banner Carrier – Michael Zavalydriga • Crucifer – Grayson Magill
Acolytes - Landon Magill and Norah Crawford
6:00: Banner Carrier – Albany Lyles • Crucifer – Lily Norris • Acolyte - Karis Nix

You may wish to prepare your heart and mind for worship in silent prayer, meditation,
or the reading of scriptures or hymns.

PRELUDE.....*Fantasia on Greensleeves*..... Laura Crawford, violin (4:00)
R. Vaughan Williams John Henry Crawford, cello (4:00)
Elizabeth Beck (6:00)
E. Ray Peebles, organ

INTROIT.....*Gloria*.....Chancel Choir
[excerpt]
John Rutter

† CHRISTMAS GREETING (*said responsively*).....Rev. Emily Blair

The angel appeared to the shepherds telling them not to be afraid,
because they had good news which would bring great joy to all people.

This very day, in David’s town, a Savior was born, Christ the Lord. Hallelujah!

We, too, come together to experience the joy of Christ’s birth.
May this joy continue in our hearts.

*Let us rejoice! Let us rejoice and share the good news of His birth. Glory to God in
the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

† HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” No. 174

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

(4:00).....Ross and Allison Barrett
Grace, Georgia, Garland, and Gillian

(6:00).....Patrick and Morgan Vaughan
Finn and Oliver

*The white candle signifies the pure life of Christ;
the flame is the symbol of Christ, the light of the world.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in *Unison*)Rev. Kathy Wafer

*O Father, we yearn for the simple beauty of Christmas. We are not worthy to be the receivers
of your greatest gift, the Christ Child. We take this time to humble ourselves before you. We
confess our love and devotion to you has not always been as warm or sincere or real as it should
have been. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes and our failure to follow you. But now, on
this Christmas Eve, we ask your blessings, that we might experience anew the birth of your Son.
Amen.*

† SCRIPTURE LESSON.....*Luke 2:1-20*Dr. Steven Bell

† HYMN.....“O Little Town of Bethlehem”.....No. 192

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Matthew Hulbert

MESSAGE.....**GOD WITH US**.....Dr. Steven Bell

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING.....No. 731-732.....Dr. Steven Bell

THE LORD’S PRAYER.....Congregation (speaks in unison)

*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 trespass 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.*

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GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP.....Dr. Steven Bell

*Please come to the Communion Table as you are directed by the ushers. If you are
unable to come forward, please notify an usher and Communion will be brought
to you. ✠ There are no spoken dismissals; you may leave the altar after you have
received Communion, so that others may come. ✠ As you take the Sacrament,
pause for a moment to pray for the peace of the world and those less-fortunate
than ourselves. ✠ It is customary, in churches of the Methodist tradition, to leave a
“Christmas offering” when taking Communion, which helps support the missions of
our church.*

*As the congregation comes to the altar, the choir, instrumentalists and soloists will present
various inspirational selections.*

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

Mary, Did You Know?.....arr. Dr. Alison Beck.....Elizabeth Beck, violin
Dr. Alison Beck, piano

O Holy Night.....Adolphe Adam.....Liesel Cruz, alto
E. Ray Peebles, organ

Gesu Bambino (4:00).....Pietro A. Yon.....Laura Crawford, violin
John-Henry Crawford, cello
E. Ray Peebles, organ

Away in a Manger.....arr. Mack Wilberg.....Chancel Choir
Strings

Christmas Lullaby.....John Rutter.....Chancel Choir

What Child Is?.....Keith Christopher.....Chancel Choir
Strings