

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

SENDING FORTH

Prayer and Candle Lighting

*All stand as able.*

† Hymn 239	Silent Night, Holy 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!		

Dismissal with Blessing

Closing Voluntary	Carillon for Christmas	Brenda Portman
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Sanctuary Flowers  
The Altar flowers are given by the Grace Vineyard to the Glory of God with thankfulness for the love that came down to us on Christmas Day and remains with us all through the year.

Assisting in Today’s Worship Service  
Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne — *Lead Pastor*; Rev. Erin Yow; Rev. Steven Coss—*Associate Pastors*  
Michael S. Brannon — *Director of Music*  
Dennis Sanders — *Acolyte*; Noreen Elshaw — *Cross Bearer*  
Chancel Choir; Keith Anderson, chimes — *Musicians*  
The Lorraine Perkins Family — *Advent Wreath Lighters*  
Dennis Sanders — *Reader*  
Jean Greene — *Altar Guild Volunteer*  
Becky Kirtley, Rev. Ally Deal, Phyllis Owens, Mike Owens, Carol Carlock, Rev. Robert Cannon, Rev. Carol Cannon — *Communion Stewards*  
Jason Gardner, Keith Anderson — *Sound Technicians*

FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ORDER OF WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 24, 2025 – 6:30 PM  
CHRISTMAS EVE



GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

Opening Voluntary	A Carol Fantasy	Franklin D. Ashdown
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† Hymn 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.		
<i>Choir Only</i> 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.		

Welcome and Prayer

Lighting the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle  
Welcome, Emmanuel. Make your home in our hearts and world this glad day.

† Hymn 217	Away in a Manger	AWAY IN A MANGER
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.		
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.		
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.		

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD


First Lesson	Isaiah 9:2-7
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† Hymn 230	O Little Town of Bethlehem	ST. LOUIS
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!		
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.		
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!		
† Gospel Lesson		Luke 2:1-20
<i>The word of God for the people of God.</i> Thanks be to God.		
† Hymn 240	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	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 host 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, off-spring of a virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head 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!”		
Sermon	Light of the World	Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne
Invitation to Offering		
Anthem	Sleep, Holy Babe	Michael Larkin
† Hymn 94	Doxology	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!		

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving	
Celebrant:	The Lord be with you.
People:	And also with you.
Celebrant:	Lift up your hearts.

People:	We lift them up to the Lord.
Celebrant:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People:	It is right to give our thanks and praise.
	
The 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 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	
Communion Hymn 245	The First Noel
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.	
<i>Refrain</i> 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. ( <i>refrain</i> )	
And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far; and to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. ( <i>refrain</i> )	
This star drew nigh to the north-west, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. ( <i>refrain</i> )	
Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. ( <i>refrain</i> )	
COMMUNION Hymn 238	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. Gloria, in excelsis Deo!	