

WELCOME TO



Christmas Eve Worship

DECEMBER 24, 2025
7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm | Sanctuary

**Please stand or lift your heart*

PRESERVICE MUSIC

String Quartet
Karen Kartal, Mary Pulgar, violin;
Julie Roy, viola; Jeanine Wilkinson, cello

WELCOME

Rev. Jonathan Jonas



Please use either this QR code or a card in the pew for attendance and prayer requests that you would like shared with staff. You may place cards in the offering plate.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Don Jones

LEADER: Merciful God, you sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.

ALL: Give us grace to hear their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

What Child is This?
arr. Robert Cundich
String quartet; Dr. Jenny Anderson, piano

*HYMN No. 234 (vv. 1-3, 6)

O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Jonas Family

RESPONSE

from 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.***

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still
arr. Mack Wilberg
Chancel Choir; Dr. Dwight Dockery, conductor

Still, still, still, the child's eyes softly close.
And Mary, breathless, draws him, weeping,
to her heart made pure for keeping.
Still, still, still, his bright eyes softly close.

Sing, sing, sing, he hears and sweetly smiles.
And kneeling, Joseph joins in chorus
with the angels bending o'er us.
Sing, sing, sing, he hears and sweetly smiles.

Sleep, sleep, O sleep, he breathes a tender sigh,
for soon he'll wake the world from slumber,
bringing life and endless wonder,
sleep, sleep, O sleep. He breathes a tender sigh.

Sleep, Holy Jesus, sleep, sleep, sleep.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LEADER: In the beginning was the Word,

***ALL:* And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

LEADER: And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

***ALL:* And we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

LEADER: By these holy words of scripture, reveal your Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, to us we pray.

***ALL:* Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

LEADER: All scripture is inspired by God.

***ALL:* Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Jonas
Preparing Him Room

***HYMN No. 240**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

OFFERING MOMENT

OFFERTORY

Angels We Have Heard on High
arr. Terry D. Wilson

***DOXOLOGY No. 94**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
THE FIRST NOEL

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION Rev. Jonas and Rev. Jones

Invitation and Prayer of Confession

**ALL: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way of peace. Come
into the brokenness of our lives and our land with
your healing love.**

**Help us to be willing to bow before you in true
repentance, and to bow to one another in real
forgiveness.**

**By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts
and consume the pride and prejudice which separate
us. Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love, which casts
out our fear, and bind us together in that unity which
you share with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

LEADER: Hear the good news: if we confess our sins, God
who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse
us from all unrighteousness.

In the name of Jesus Christ the Son, you are forgiven.

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (UMH 15)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

O Holy Night
Adolphe Adam
Shelley Maddox, soprano; Greg Brakebill, tenor

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
arr. Kevin Hildebrand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for the holy mystery of your love, mercy, and grace revealed so long ago through Jesus Christ in Bethlehem's manger, and for us tonight in the bread and fruit of the vine we have shared.

Grant that we may go into the world to shine the Light of the World, that those who walk in darkness might see the great light of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

As we sing together, the pastors will light a candle from the Christ candle and walk down the aisle lighting the candles of people seated closest to the center. Please tip unlit candles toward lit candles to light them so that we avoid dripping wax.

We will raise our candles on the fourth verse, filling the sanctuary with light!

*HYMN No. 239

Silent Night
STILLE NACHT

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Away in a Manger
arr. Michael Costello



WELCOME TO
 **1st** UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
MARYVILLE

Christmas Eve Worship

DECEMBER 24, 2025
10:00 PM

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PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
arr. Daniel Burton
Dr. Jenny Anderson, organ

INTROIT

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Plainsong chant
Shelley Maddox, soprano; Dr. Dwight Dockery, tenor

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore. Amen

*HYMN No. 234 (vv. 1-3, 6)

O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Smith Family

RESPONSE

from 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,
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ALL: Amen.

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SERMON

Rev. Jones
A Child is Born

***HYMN No. 240**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

OFFERING MOMENT

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night
Adolphe

Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till he appeared and he soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!

O night divine! O night when Christ was born,
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
in all our trials, born to be our friend.
He knows our need, he guardeth us from danger;
Behold your King! Before the Lowly bend.
Behold your King, your King, before him bend.

Truly he taught us to love one another;
his law is love, and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we.
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim,
his pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

***DOXOLOGY No. 94** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
THE FIRST NOEL

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

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*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Away in a Manger
arr. Michael Costello



2025 Christmas Offering




Show your love for neighbors this Christmas by supporting Good Neighbors of Blount County through the 2025 Christmas Offering. This organization helps people with rent and/or utility assistance, budgeting and other ways to keep them out of crisis.

You can donate to the Christmas Offering in these ways:

- Give during the Christmas Eve services.
- You can give online at 1stchurch.org/giving,
- You can mail a check to 804 Montvale Station Road, 37803. Just mark the memo line with "Christmas Offering 2025."

Unwrap your gifts and watch the

2025
Chancel Choir & Orchestra
Christmas Cantata

Christmas Day, December 25th  9:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED

December 25th & 26th

No Welcome Table on Dec. 25th

W A T C H N I G H T



DECEMBER 31, 2025

5:30 PM DINNER
6:30 PM WORSHIP
7:40 PM SHARE GROUPS
8:30 PM TO 10:30 PM
WATCH NIGHT ACTIVITIES

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE IN ASBURY HALL
AND ROOMS ON THE LOWER LEVEL

CHRISTMAS
IN MARYVILLE

1stchurch.org