

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her King;
2. Joy to the world, the Sav-ior reigns! Let all their songs em-ploy;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions prove

let while ev-ery heart pre-pare him room,
the fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
the glo-ries of his righ-teous-ness,

and heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture sing,
re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing joy,
and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his love,

and heaven, and heaven, and na-ture sing.
re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

† DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Ushers: 4:00pm Courtney Kraus and Jen Robertson
6:00pm Courtney Kraus and Jen Robertson
9:00pm Wayne Wheelan and Karen Smith

Thank you to our guest instrumentalists and soloists:

Christian Zamora, Violin
Karel Abo, Violin
Jan Marie Joyce, Viola
Adam Beall, Cello
Sandy DeAthos-Meers, Soprano
Harold Meers, Tenor

Call or e-mail the church office for any prayer concerns or celebrations.
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9:00am-5:00pm, Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

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Our Church Staff

Charles Phillips, Pastor
Julianne Wise, Office Manager
Jen Robertson, Director of Member Care and Development
Courtney Kraus, Director of Youth and Student Ministries
Alex Wilson, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Marcie Lesesne, Nursery Coordinator

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First United Methodist Church

Twelve Twenty-First Avenue
at Palm Boulevard
Isle of Palms, SC 29451
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Christmas Eve Worship

4:00pm, 6:00pm and 9:00pm

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Our mission is to discover, celebrate and share God’s love!



Christmas Eve

Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Charles A. Phillips

Order of Worship Christmas Eve

Services 4:00pm, 6:00pm

and 9:00pm

PRELUDE

GATHERING AND GREETING

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal, ____
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, ____

come ye, O come ____ ye to Beth - le - hem.
lo, he ____ shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven ____ a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee ____ be all glo - ry given.

Come and be - hold him, ____ born the King of an - gels;
Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
Glo - ry to God, all ____ glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, ____ now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ ____ the Lord.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Good news of great joy!
People who walked in darkness now live in great light.
Good news of great joy!
Oppression and war will not have the last word.
Good news of great joy!
A Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as 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.

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion will be served by intinction (bread give to be dipped in the cup). Please come to the station nearest to you. Also, you will receive a candle before returning to your seat. An usher will be glad to assist you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Holy Night
O Holy Night

Soloist: Sandra DeAthos-Meers (4:00pm and 6:00pm)
Soloist: Alex Wilson (9:00pm)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A SERVICE OF LIGHT

As Silent Night is sung and the lights are being dimmed, the light from the Christ Candle will be passed among the congregation.

Please remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the candle to be lit is tipped to be lighted. Before leaving the pew at the end of the service, please extinguish your candle, and place them in the containers at the exits.

† HYMN

Silent Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heavenly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
with the an - gels let ____ us sing, Al - le-lu - ia to ____ our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, ____ sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, ____ Christ the Sav - ior is born! ____
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, ____ Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. ____
Christ the Sav - ior is born, ____ Christ the Sav - ior is born! ____

† PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Savior, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

† THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.


Pour out your Holy Spirit... Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

<i>Sweet Little Jesus Boy</i>	Soloist: Harold Meers (4:00pm)
<i>O Come Redeemer of the Earth</i>	Chancel Choir (6:00pm)
<i>I Wonder as I Wander</i>	Soloist: Alex Wilson (9:00pm)

† DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN		UMH 94
		
		
		
		
		
	Words: Thomas Ken; adpt. Gilbert II. Vieira Music: <i>Geistliche Kirchengesaenge</i> ; harm. Ralph Vaughan Willaims LASST UNS ERFREUEN	

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit; that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy. They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice. As on the day of Midian, you’ve shattered the yoke that burdened them,the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor. Because every boot of the thundering warriors, and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire. A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be vast authority and endless peace for David’s throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:2-7

PSALTER

O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
**Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.**
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
**Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**
Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**
Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!
**The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."**
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.**

† GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

UMH 71



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the



Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and ev - er



shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

EPISTLE LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. It educates us so that we can live sensible, ethical, and godly lives right now by rejecting ungodly lives and the desires of this world. At the same time we wait for the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of our great God and savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to rescue us from every kind of lawless behavior, and cleanse a special people for himself who are eager to do good actions.

† GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

SERMON

"Glory to God in the Highest"

Pastor Charles Phillips

† HYMN

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car - nate De - i - ty, —
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — born that we no more may die, —



with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the new-born King!"