

## † 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

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## 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

 $843\text{-}886\text{-}6610\,/\,hello@iopmethodist.com}$ 

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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 caphillips@umcsc.org juliannewise@iopmethodist.com jenrobertson@iopmethodist.com courtneykraus@iopmethodist.com firstiopmusicministry@gmail.com

sing.

joy. love.

# First United Methodist Church



Twelve Twenty-First Avenue at Palm Boulevard Isle of Palms, SC 29451 www.iopmethodist.com

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



## † 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 Soloist: Sandra DeAthos-Meers (4:00pm and 6:00pm)

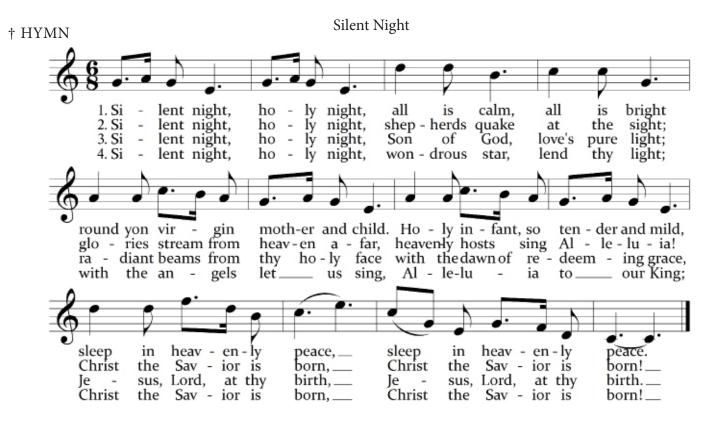
O Holy Night Soloist: Alex Wilson (9:00pm)

## 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.



† 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 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.

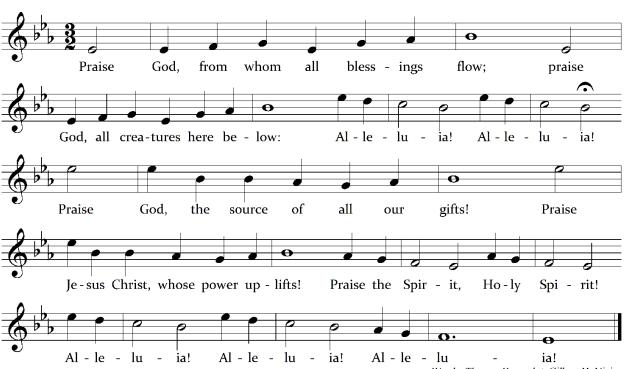
Pour out your Holy Spirit... Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

#### OFFERING AND ANTHEM

Sweet Little Jesus Boy Soloist: Harold Meers (4:00pm)
O Come Redeemer of the Earth
I Wonder as I Wander Soloist: Alex Wilson (9:00pm)

## † DOXOLOGY



LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Words: Thomas Ken; adpt. Gilbert II. Vieira Music: Geistliche Kirchengesaenge; 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

Isaiah 9:2-7

**UMH 94** 

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.

Psalm 96

## **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,

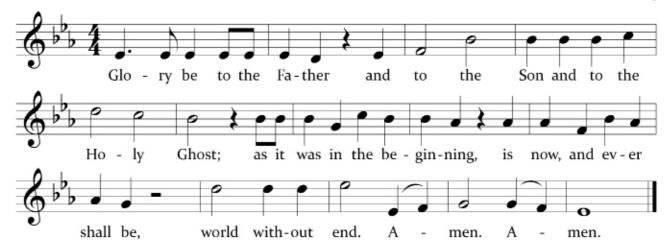
for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

† GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

**UMH 71** 



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 DavidTo 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

