

St. John's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION

Good Neighbors, Sharing the Good News

MESSAGE

Stories of Christmas; Around the Manger
"Simeon & Anna"

DATE

December 28th, 2025
1st Sunday After Christmas
Liturgical Color | White

WORSHIP GUIDE

NEW HERE?

WELCOME GUESTS

If you are interested in getting to know us, please provide information you are comfortable sharing via our online sign-in link on our website; stjohnsumc.org/worship, scan the QR code on the back of your worship guide, or fill out the “guest card” located at the end of the pew, and place it in the offering plate. **Questions?** Church Office; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org

NURSERY SERVICE | Room 103

Children, newborn through 5, are welcome in the nursery during the 10:45 AM worship service. The nursery staff kindly asks all parents to sign-in each Sunday and leave a cell phone number in case they need to contact you during the service. Also, please clearly label all of your child's important belongings.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Kid's Club House

During our 10:45 AM worship service, children from kindergarten to 5th Grade will be dismissed to participate in our Deep Blue Sunday School curriculum, led by our Safe Gatherings certified teachers. If your child(ren) is new to class, please feel free to accompany them to our classroom and meet their teacher. Should you decide to have your child attend Sunday School, you can ask an usher for directions to room 203 (Kid's Club House) after the worship service.

**On the 3rd Sunday of the month, all children and youth are invited to participate in our service during Sunday School. Our children and youth will help cook and provide a meal for our friends at Neighbor 2 Neighbor (N2N).*

REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP AND PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

8:30 AM — WORSHIP | Chapel

9:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL | Sanctuary
PATHWAYS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL | 205

10:45 AM WORSHIP | Sanctuary and Virtual
NURSERY CARE | 103
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Kid's Clubhouse

12/28

**WE WILL NOT OFFER
NURSERY CARE,
AN 8:30 SERVICE, OR
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

MEMBERS & GUESTS

Please register your presence on the attendance pads at the end of your pew, scan the QR code on the back of the Worship Guide, or visit our website: stjohnsumc.org/worship.

MAKE SOME NOISE FOR MISSIONS

Loose change in the offering plate is used to support our local and international missions, service, and justice efforts including the Missouri United Methodist Conference's Mozambique Initiative. For more information on the Mozambique Initiative visit mzinitiative.com.



SERVING

THIS WEEK | 12.28.2025

NO 8:30 AM CHAPEL

10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY READER | Ginny Miller
USHERS | Annette Young
Dennis Young

NEXT WEEK | 1.4.2025

8:30 AM | CHAPEL

LAY READER | John Rasmus
USHERS | John Rasmus

10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY READER | Barb Mueller
USHERS | Emma Weber
Vance Weber

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE | *Improvisation on "The First Noel"*

Dale Morehouse, organ


WELCOME & INVITATIONS | Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman

Worship Symbol Notes

* | All are invited to rise in spirit and, as you are able, please stand

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN | *The First Noel*² | UMH 245 (1, 2, 4)



1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS: Trad. English carol (Lk. 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)

MUSIC: Trad. English carol; harm. from *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

THE FIRST NOEL

Irr. with Refrain

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader | O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wonderful things God has done:

People | The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

Leader | O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wonderful things God has done:

People | The people who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

Leader | O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wonderful things God has done:

People | The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,

Leader | Making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!

People | O come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous things!

ALL | Amen.

(The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd ed., Baker Books: Grand Rapids, pg. 502)

*HYMN OF PRAISE | *Angels from the Realms of Glory*² | UMH 220 (1, 2, 3)

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2. Shep-herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions
4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, watch-ing long in

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear; sud - den - ly the Lord, de-scend - ing,

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system includes a 'Refrain' section. The lyrics are written below the staves. The second system continues the melody and lyrics. At the bottom, there is a credit for the words and music.

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant light: Come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816 (Lk. 2:8-20; Mt. 2:1-12; Mal. 3:1)
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE
87.87.87

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER JOYS

Thank you **Julie Salmon** for providing cookies for all to enjoy after the 10:45 am service in the Rotunda.

PRAYER CONCERNS

The Friends and Family of Ken Brown | Husband of Carolyn Brown | on her death
The Friends and Family of Jean Fischer | Mother of Paula Rector | on her death
The Friends and Family of Celinda Graham | Sister of Dennis Young | on her death
Linda Caton | Friend of Dale Morehouse
Nancy Stiles | PDO Teacher
Colby Lund | Son of Loretta and Aaron Lund

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Dianna Hackler | Mother of Mason Hackler
Darren Wallace and his family | Uncle of Grace Mott, and Brother of David Wallace
Rosa Maria Luque | Mother of PDO Teacher Blanca Quinto
Douglas and Christine Young | Sue Young's Son and Daughter-in-law
Mark McMillen | Cousin of Jill Gardner and Nephew of Max Miller
Marilyn McMillen | Aunt of Jill Gardner and Sister of Max Miller
Marci Allen | Sister of Laura Jones
Chris Mueller
Lazarus | Grandson of Bill and Gretchen Longmire
Crystal Vines
Shirley Thorn
Marcia Kelly | Friend of Linda Potter
Luke Karel | Friend of Cindy & Barry Mayhew
Linda Edwards | Friend of Ginny Miller
Susan Lovell | Mother of Mason Paoli
Those in Hospice Care, their families, and caregivers
Those Dealing with Dementia, their families & caregivers
UMC Hospice Program in Mongolia
Our Pastors & Other Church Leaders
Northwest District Superintendent, Reverend Robin Roderick Bell
Missouri Conference Bishop, Bob Farr
Lionzuane UMC in Mozambique and Pastor Moises Jeremias Manhique
Worldwide Unrest and Persecution
Those who live on the margins of society
Those serving in the Military and all First Responders
Petty Officer 2nd Class, Dominic Gattorna
Those impacted by natural disasters
Those suffering at the hands of others

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SOLO | *Lullaby* | words and music by John Ness Beck, 1977; setting by Craig Courtney, 1990 | Dr. Josh Markley, baritone; Dale Morehouse, piano

With the simplest of means, John Ness Beck created a classic Christmas work that choirs and soloists continue to sing nearly 50 years later. Another of our favorite composers, Craig Courtney, arranged this for solo voice.

*A child, a holy child, fast asleep beneath a winter sky,
Is warm at rest at his mother's breast
As she sings her lullaby.*

*The lambs, the cattle too are sleeping in a bed of hay,
And all around there's no other sound
Than lullaby, lullay.*

*Lullaby, sleep well, sleep well, my precious one:
Lullaby, my love, my only son;
New life has now begun.*

*So the story goes: once upon a winter morn
A tiny boy bringing love and joy,
The Prince of Peace was born.*

SCRIPTURE | Luke 2:22-38' | NRSVUE

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,

ORDER OF WORSHIP

for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

READER | The Word of God for the people of God

PEOPLE | Thanks be to God

¹“Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.
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MESSAGE | Around the Manger; Stories of Christmas “Simeon and Anna”

Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman

GENEROSITY MOMENT

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OFFERTORY SOLO | *One Small Child* | words and music by David Meece, 1966; arr. Lloyd Larson, 2013 | Dr. Josh Markley, baritone; Dale Morehouse, piano

David Meece is an American contemporary Christian musician who enjoyed success in the mid 1980s throughout the early 2000s with more than 30 Top 10 hits (several reaching No. 1). Growing up in Humble, Texas, with an abusive, alcoholic father, Meece found solace in playing the piano. By his mid-teens he was accomplished enough to play the 45-minute-long Khachaturian Concerto with the Houston Symphony and to win a competition that allowed him to tour Europe and the USA. He composed “*One Small Child*” when he was 14. The text about a baby in a small town seems especially poignant coming from a teen in a small town who was wrestling with an unsupportive home environment.

*One small child in a land of a thousand
One small dream of a savior tonight
One small hand reaching out to the starlight
One small savior of life.*

*One king bringing his gold and riches
One king ruling and army of might
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight
One king bringing us life.*

*See Him lying, a cradle beneath Him
See Him smiling in the stall
See His mother praising the Father
See His tiny eyelids fall
See the shepherds kneeling before Him
See the kings on bended knee
See the mother praising the Father
See the blessed infant sleep*

*One small child in a land of a thousand
One small dream of a savior tonight
One small hand reaching out to the starlight
One small savior of life.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP


*DOXOLOGY | *In the Bleak Midwinter* | UMH 221 (I, 4)



1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2. Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath-ered there,
4. What can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign.
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid-en bliss,
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
Lord God Al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
what I can I give him: give my heart.


WORDS: Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 (Lk. 2:8-14)
MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

CRANHAM
Irr.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

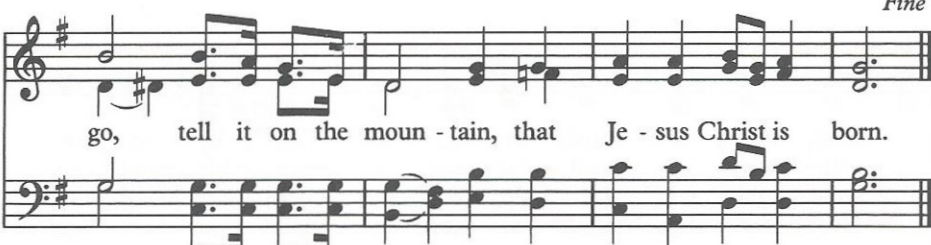
***HYMN OF SENDING FORTH | Go, Tell It on the Mountain² | UMH 251**

Refrain



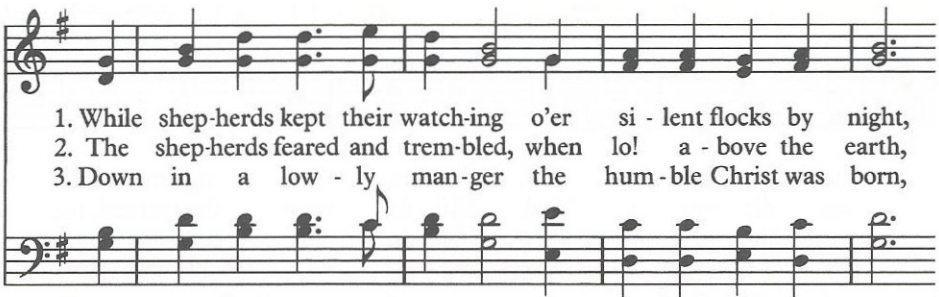
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

Fine

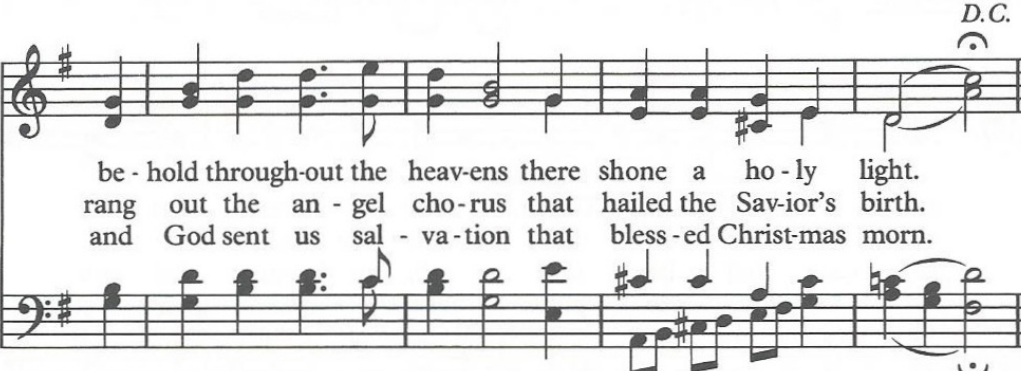


go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born.

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a-bove the earth,
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



D.C.



be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed the Sav-ior's birth.
and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by
John W. Work, Jr., 1907 (Lk. 2:8-20)

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by
William Farley Smith, 1986

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
Irr. with Refrain

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Dale Morehouse, organ



ORDER OF WORSHIP

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THIS WEEK

SUNDAY | 12.28

8:30 AM Worship Service | Chapel
10:45 AM Worship Service | Sanctuary

MONDAY | 12.29

PDO On Break
9:30 AM Neighbor 2 Neighbor Lunch Prep | Brookside Hall Kitchen
11:30 AM Neighbor 2 Neighbor Lunch Served | St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
12:30 PM Quilting Group | 205

TUESDAY | 12.30

PDO On Break
10:00 AM Baby Grace and Neighbor 2 Neighbor Drop Off (until 2 PM) | Rotunda
11:30 AM Bell Choir | Choir Room
6:30 PM Mandolin Orchestra of Kansas City Rehearsal | Brookside Hall

WEDNESDAY | 12.31

PDO On Break

THURSDAY | 1.1 | Happy New Year!

PDO Closed
Church Office Closed

FRIDAY | 1.2

10:00 AM Jean Fisher Visitation | Sanctuary
11:00 AM Jean Fisher Funeral | Sanctuary
1:00 PM Living Streams | Zoom



**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
FRIDAY E-NEWSLETTER**

SATURDAY | 1.3

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY | 1.4 | Communion Sunday

8:30 AM Worship Service | Chapel
10:45 AM Worship Service | Sanctuary

CONNECT WITH US!



stjohnsumckc

stjohnsumc.org

MISSIONS, SERVICE, & JUSTICE

N2N (Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City)

St. John's UMC is a long time partner with Neighbor to Neighbor of Kansas City. N2N is a local ministry that serves the homeless and near homeless in the Kansas City area. We are always collecting monetary donations for N2N.



Scan the QR code to donate. Choose the Missions Fund with the Sub-fund Neighbor 2 Neighbor.

Any material donations can be can be dropped off at St. John's UMC on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM. Questions? Ruth Gerald; ruth.a.gerald@gmail.com.

BABY GRACE OF KANSAS CITY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM | TRINITY UMC

Baby Grace, a Diaper Pantry and Clothes closet, provides necessities to families who are living at or below the poverty level. These items are not available through any government assistance program. In addition, we provide connections for resources, education, and other programs that can give them needed assistance.



HOW TO HELP:

- Please consider donating to help us purchase our diapers and wipes. We are now a Happy Bottoms distributor and can buy more diapers for each family at a savings; but still must fund a portion of the diapers and all of the wipes. Our savings in diapers will be used to provide new added programs.
- Volunteer to sort and prepare clothing and items for our quarterly Clothes Closets and then help set them up and assist our families shopping
- Work our monthly distributions on the second Saturday of each month 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM and/or the Thursday following the second Saturday from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM.
- Donate Clothing sizes Newborn through size 6, childcare items, toys & books. Drop off times at St. John's UMC are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Tuesdays & Thursdays. You may also drop off donations at Trinity UMC during our Distribution hours there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH FLOWERS

Honor a loved one and donate flowers to beautify our Chapel and Sanctuary (\$100 Donation). Your donation will be mentioned in our weekly publications. If you would like to make a donation scan the QR code, e-mail the church office; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org, or sign up in the Rotunda.



ST. JOHN'S PDO / PS

PDO OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

It's enrollment season for our Parents' Day Out program! Church members can enroll online for our 2026-27 School Year on **Thursday, January 22nd at 8:30 am**. Enrollment for our 6-week Summer Camp will happen on February 19th. Please see our **2026 Enrollment Newsletter** for complete details: visit <https://app.smore.com/n/v2q38w> or scan the QR Code. **Questions:** Jill Gardner, jill.gardner@stjohnsumc.org.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW GIVING PLATFORM!

Exciting news: we've moved from ShelbyNEXT Giving to Subsplash Giving! Online giving will be easier than ever and allow the church to save money. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership in ministry! Click the QR Code to give online or Text BLESS6900 to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483).



ST. JOHN'S CHILDREN / YOUTH

YOUTH/CHILDREN SERVICE SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH | DURING OUR 10:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

BROOKSIDE HALL KITCHEN

St. John's Youth and Children will be dismissed from worship to gather and prepare/assemble meals for Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City. Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City provide meals and meet other daily needs to homeless and near-homeless persons in the Kansas City area. If you have kids that would like to help please contact the church office; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org or just show up!

YOUTH DONUT SALES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH | AFTER THE 10:45 AM SERVICE | ROTUNDA

Help support St. John's youth by purchasing a donut after worship. Proceeds from the sale will go towards meals prepared by the children/youth of St. John's UMC to benefit Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City. If you would like to donate donuts contact the church office; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org.



6900 Ward Parkway
Kansas City MO 64113
816.523.6788
stjohnsumc.org

SENIOR PASTOR

Jim Hoffman | Ext 103
jimh@stjohnsumc.org

**ORGANIST AND
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Dale Morehouse
dmorehousekc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE MANAGER

Jessica Gattorna | Ext 100
jessicag@stjohnsumc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

PARENTS DAY OUT | PRESCHOOL

DIRECTOR

Jill Gardner | 816.523.6788 Ext. 101
jill.gardner@stjohnsumc.org



Register attendance

BE OUR GUEST



Network Home: SJUMCWireless_Guest
Network Password: sjumcguest

**The story of Christmas through
the eyes of St. John's UMC**

