

Saint John's United Methodist Church

*At Saint John's United Methodist Church
we affirm that all persons are of sacred worth,
and we welcome everyone,
without exception, to participate fully
in the church's life and ministry.*



A Service of Worship for Christmas Eve December 24, 2021 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Gathering Music

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Ed Snouffer, piano

Words and Music: John F. Wade
Arranged by Fred Bock
© 1984 by Fred Bock Music Company

Welcome

Rev. Hilary Marchbanks

Introit

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Chancel Choir

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Greeting

Responsive, led by Rev. Randy Knighten

Holy God, we give you thanks that you are revealed in the light of Jesus Christ.
Your hope, peace, joy, and love are multiplied in all of heaven and earth.

**Together we give thanks that Jesus has come to the world, and ask you, O God,
to help us make room for Christ's light in our lives.**

May we live fully, hopefully, lovingly, and peacefully in that light.

And help us to remember to share that light with the world. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

All

**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.**

**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!**

UMH 234 vv 1,2,3
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Words and Music: John F. Wade
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Opening Prayer

All, led by Rev. Knighten

**Ever-faithful God, through prophets and angels you told of the promise of what is
to come. If we listen closely, we can almost hear the angels sing; we can almost
hear the innkeeper say, "No room;" we can almost hear the star whisper, "Follow
me." If we listen closely, God, we can almost hear you.**

**This holy night, as we turn to your Word, open our hearts to understand your
promise anew and know your love more deeply. Amen.**

Lighting of the Candle of Christ

The Hicks Family (5:00)
The Airhart Family (7:00)

“Jesus Will Come Bringing Light”

Annabelle Wolfe (5:00)
Chancel Choir (7:00)

Traditional Cameroon folksong (altered)

Family: May these candles remind us that the Advent of Compassion is born in Christ,
resides in our hearts, and moves outward from us to meet the needs of the
world.

**All: Make of our hearts a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for love to live and grow.**

“Jesus Will Come Bringing Love”

All

**Jesus will come bringing light, Jesus will come bringing light,
Jesus will come bringing light, let the world sing, "Alleluia!"**

Traditional Cameroon folksong (altered)

Children's Time

Laura Schwarcz

Prayers of the People

Rev. Cheryl Broome

Prayer of Jesus

All, led by Rev. Broome

**Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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.**

Song for Illumination

“Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting)”

Chancel Choir

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,
yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

UMH 210 v 4

“Toda la Tierra” – “All Earth Is Waiting” – translation – Gertrude C. Suppe

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Words of Life

Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Knighten

Message for Today

"The Inn"

Rev. Marchbanks

Response

"Joy to the World"

All

**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.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

UMH 246 vv 1,2,4

"Joy to the World"

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: G.F. Handel, arranged Lowell Mason 1848

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We offer many ways to give to support mission and ministry at Saint John's.

1. Text "SJUMC" to 73256 on your smartphone and follow the prompts.
2. Visit stjohnsaustin.org/giving to make an online donation using a credit/debit card, bank draft, or cryptocurrency.
3. Church members may log on to their mySaintJohn's account via the web or by the Realm Connect app.
4. Leave a donation in the offering box located at the Sanctuary entrance or mail a check to the church.

Offertory Prayer

All, led by Rev. Knighten

**May we wake up and see the many things to be thankful for tonight, O God.
Receive these gifts of our gratitude for your love incarnate in the child of
Bethlehem. Be born in us anew, and shine your light through these offerings.
May they make room for miracles in a world which needs your resounding joy.
Amen.**

Offertory

"Away in a Manger"

Chancel Choir

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.
The cattle are lowing the baby awakes,
the little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

Be near us, Lord Jesus! We ask thee to stay
close by us forever, and love us, we pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there

"Away in a Manger"

Words and Music: © 1986 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Contributors: J.T. MacFarland, Gilbert Martin

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* Song of Thanks

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

All

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

Glo - ria, in excelsis Deo.

Glo - ria, in excelsis Deo.

UMH 238 v 1

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Words and Music: © 1996 H W Gray

Contributors: Trad. French carol, Edward Shippen Barnes

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Solo

"O Holy Night"

Robbie LaBanca, tenor; Ed Snouffer, piano (5:00)
Kari McDonald, soprano; Ed Snouffer, piano (7:00)

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
for he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices!
O night, divine, O night when Christ was born,
O night, O night, O night divine.

"O Holy Night"

Words and Music: © 1993 Hal Leonard Corporation

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Christmas Light

Rev. Marchbanks

*** Hymn**

“Silent Night”

All

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.

UMH 239 vv 1,2,3

“Silent Night”

Words: Joseph Mohr 1818, trans. John F. Young

Music: Franz Gruber

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*** Christmas Benediction**

Rev. Knighten

*** Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Rev. Knighten

Postlude

“Joy to the World”

Ed Snouffer, piano

Music: George F. Handel

Arranged by Fred Bock

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** You are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

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UMH denotes “United Methodist Hymnal”.



Our Poinsettias



The poinsettias in the sanctuary and gallery have been given in memory and in honor of loved ones. To sign up to provide sanctuary flowers in the future, please email Rebecca Witte at rebecca@stjohnsaustin.org.

Participating in Worship Today

Rev. Hilary Marchbanks, Senior Pastor
Rev. Cheryl Broome, Congregational Care Pastor
Rev. Randy Knighten, Director of Outreach Ministries
Cina Crisara, Director of Music
Chancel Choir
Will Foley, Projections Coordinator
Rory Hall, Projections Coordinator
Gary James, Sound Technician
Robbie LaBanca, soloist
Kari McDonald, soloist
Laura Schwarcz, Director of Children and Family Ministries
Ed Snouffer, piano
John Thomason, bulletin
Natalie Young, Communications Coordinator

Liturgy Notes

Greeting and opening prayers are by Dr. Marcia McFee.
Advent liturgy is by Amanda Udis-Kessler.
Offering prayer is by David Mosser.

Connect Team

Kathleen Harrington



Saint John's United Methodist Church

2140 Allandale Road
(512) 452-5737

Austin, Texas 78756
www.stjohnsaustin.org

Newsletter: <https://www.stjohnsaustin.org/newsletter>

We are creating a community ...

Access Friendship Book, Guest Form, Bulletin, and More

Scan this QR Code to go to Saint John's "landing page" where you can click on links to sign the Friendship Book and Guest Form, see today's bulletin, request prayer, give online, see the newsletter and latest COVID policies, or go to our website. Going to stjohnsaustin.org/connect takes you to the same page.



2021 Christmas Offering

Thanks to your generosity, each year Saint John's shares funds with non-profit organizations near and far. Saint John's also shares our beautiful facilities as community spaces for non-profits, music groups, and schools. This year's Christmas offering will enable us to complete our financial commitments for 2021 as well as look toward our ministry goals for 2022. One goal includes a potential staff raise; we have not had sufficient resources to give raises in three of the last five years. Your offering may be placed in the envelopes found in the bulletins. If you wish to make a gift online, you may do so at stjohnsaustin.org/giving.

Only One Worship Service Sunday, December 26th, 11:00 am

We will have only one worship service Sunday, December 26th, and it will be at 11:00 am. Shelley Walters, Director of Faith Development, will preach on Colossians 3:12-17 and Cina Crisara, Director of Music, will lead the music. The service will be both in-person and live-streamed.

New Worship Series for Epiphany Season 2022: *Stories of Surprise*

Join us this January and February in worship as we focus on miracles, surprises, and wonders in scripture, and we also give thanks for how God surprises us each day. The series begins on Epiphany Sunday, January 2nd, with a message from Rev. Hilary Marchbanks based on Matthew 2:1-12.

Difficulty Hearing? Here's How to Use the *ListenEverywhere* App

ListenEverywhere is an app you can download to your phone. If you can connect your hearing aid to your phone or prefer to use headphones for assistance, you can listen to the service by following these four steps:

1. Ensure you are on the 'sj-public' WiFi network. Password: **2140allandale**
2. Download the app.
3. When you open the app in the Sanctuary, it will scan for the signal.
4. Two listening options will appear on the screen. Select "Audio Assist" or "Visual Assist" depending on your needs.



There will be a slight delay in the audio coming from your phone. If you are in the Sanctuary, please ensure that your headphones or hearing aids are connected to your device so as not to disturb those around you.

If you have questions about using the *ListenEverywhere* app, please ask a hospitality person (wearing a blue welcome mask) to get a staff person to assist you.

**Please remember that in accordance with our COVID-19 protocols,
face masks are required over nose and mouth
at all in-person events on the Saint John's campus.**