



*Central United Methodist Church*

Corner of Johnstone and Caldwell Streets  
Newberry, South Carolina  
Phone: 803-276-3903; Fax 803-276-3905  
e-mail: karen@centralumc.us ;  
website: centralumcnewberry.org

December 24, 2017

*Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service*



© Maria Bell \* www.ClipartOf.com/69930

DECEMBER 31—9 am service only, 10 am Sunday school

JANUARY 7—Regular Sunday Schedule

YOU MAY PICK UP YOUR POINSETTIAS  
AFTER THE SERVICE. THANKS!

*May His abiding love  
fill your heart with joy  
now and always!*

**CHRISTMAS EVE 2017**  
**The Nativity of Our Lord – Color: White**  
**5:30 P.M.**

The Prelude:

\*The Hymn            ***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***            No. 230

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in they dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering  
love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters  
in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born is us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

\*The Greeting

L: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to  
life. The promise is fulfilled.

**P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth,  
peace.**

L: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

**P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth,  
peace.**

L: The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight.  
The Light of the world has come.

\*The Benediction (by the pastor)

\*The Postlude

CELEBRANT  
David C. Surret  
Pastor

LAY READER  
Trish MacDonald

COMMUNION SERVERS  
Donna Surret  
Rev. Jim Williams

CHOIR DIRECTOR  
Merritt Moseley

GUEST ORGANIST  
Bobbie Wagner

ACOLYTE  
Arie Longshore



## The Lighting of the Candles

*(As “Silent Night” is sung and the lights are being dimmed, the pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle. The pastor will then light the candles of the candle-lighters gathered at the altar. They will then light the candle of the first worshiper on each pew. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle should be tipped to the lit candle, to be lighted. Worshiper are requested to extinguish their candles before leaving the pews.)*

### \*The Hymn

### “Silent Night, Holy Night”

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,  
Heav’nly 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.

**P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

L: This light is a light for all, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh, within us and among us now and always.

**P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace. Goodwill to all.**

### The Lighting of the Christ Candle

### The Surrett Family

Pastor: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

People: **O GOD, GRANT THAT IN THIS SEASON, THE CHILD OF BETHLEHEM MAY BE BORN NOT ONLY IN OUR MEMORIES, BUT ANEW IN OUR HEARTS. MAY THE STAR THAT FIRST POINTED THE WAY BE THE LIGHT THAT WILL LEAD US OUT OF DARKNESS. AMEN.**

### The Welcome

### The Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

### The Special Music

### \*The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

### The Christmas Eve Meditation

Rev. David C. Surrett

**“What The World Needs Now”**

## The Great Thanksgiving

Holy God, creator of heaven and earth, we joyfully thank you and praise your name. You formed the universe in your wisdom, and created all things by your power. You set us in families on the earth to live with you in faith. We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine, and for the table you spread in the world as a sign of your love for all people. You alone are God, and we join ourselves with all your faithful beyond all time and space, in praising your holy name (*and join their unending hymn: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are fully of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***)

We praise you, Lord, for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us, to be born this very and holy night, full of grace and truth. He made you known to all who receive him. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick, befriended sinners, and showed us the way to fulfillment in partnership with other people. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes again in glory, we will celebrate victory with him throughout eternity at his heavenly table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread and cup, broke the bread, took the cup, gave his disciples, and said: Take, eat: this is my body given for you. Drink from this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many.

And so, in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and cup and give you thanks and praise. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, and all who share this feast, may be one with Christ and he with us. May we always dwell with our Savior in His holy home and with His heavenly family. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. *Amen. Amen.*

## The Communion of the People

*Please approach the chancel at the direction of the ushers.  
Communion will be by intinction. Please take the bread and dip it into the cup.*

\*The Hymn                      **“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**                      No. 251  
(Sing during Communion)

## Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by  
night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.

## Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled, who lo! Above the  
earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth

## Refrain

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

## Refrain