

Friday, December 24, 2021
CHRISTMAS EVE

Prelude Dr. Mark Herron, Lily DesGroseilliers

Welcome/Greeting

Call to Worship—**Congregational Responses in Bold** Pastor Cindy Paxton

Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.
In the darkness of our world shines God’s holy light.
Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.
God is truly with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (UMH 234)

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God,
With joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.
We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ’s birth.
In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts
that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.
Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.
Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts,
“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those God favors.”
This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME Darolyn DesGroseilliers

Lighting of the Christ Candle Tom Paxton

Congregational Response: **Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth—regardless of circumstances—reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.**

Candle color explanation
As we gather tonight and we hear the story of this miraculous night in scripture and song, our candles and the colors used also help tell the story.
Mary and Joseph candles are blue and placed on simple fabric to represent the simplicity of their lives.
The angel candles are yellow and placed on golden fabric to represent the light that they bring to the world.
The shepherd candles are green to represent the fields from where they came.
The king candles are purple, the color of royalty.

Prophecy of the Messiah Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Carol Fuller

Hymn “Come, Though Long Expected Jesus” (UMH 196)

The Coming of Jesus is Announced to Mary and Joseph
Luke 1:26-38 Lynn Crooke

The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus and Jesus is Born
Luke 2:1-7

Special Music “O Holy Night” Soloist, Jim Lumpkins

Jesus’ Birth is Announced to the Shepherds
Luke 2:8-14 Debbie Quilliams

Hymn “It Came Upon The Midnight Clear” (UMH 218)

The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus
Luke 2:15-18 Bruce Quilliams

The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus
Matthew 2:1-11

Hymn “What Child Is This” (UMH 219)

HOMILY AND PRAYER Pastor Cindy Paxton

Special Music “Christmas Hallelujah” Rick Smith

Celebration of Holy Communion
Receiving Offering to benefit Daily Bread Pastor Cindy Paxton

Flute Soloist Lily DesGroseilliers

The Passing of the Light from the Christ Candle

Hymn “Silent Night” (UMH 239)

Benediction—Hymn “Joy to the World” (UMH 246)

Singing as we Leave the Building to Carry the Light of Christ into the World

WELCOME

Welcome! Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We are always glad to welcome guests. Our fellowship is enriched by your presence. We hope you will find a warm greeting and the Spirit of God as we gather today. Please let us know if there are ways in which we can be of service to you. If you have difficulty hearing, we have listening devices to help you. Please see the Sound Technician in the back of the church. Handicap accessible entrances and bathrooms are available, please see an Usher for assistance. We invite you to become a member of Panther Springs' Family, please see Pastor Cindy.



PLEASE DONATE TO DAILY BREAD

As you contemplate the love that is Christmas, please consider making a donation to the Daily Bread ministry. Daily Bread feeds the homeless in Morristown at lunch and dinner during the week. Please leave your donation on the kneeling rail during Communion.



The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His* presence

LITURGISTS NEEDED

If you would be willing to serve as a liturgist during our church services, please let April Mohr know your interest. The more volunteers we have, the less frequently you'll have to read! Please consider it for 2022.



DAILY BREAD TEAM 2 Monday, December 27

Team 2 of our Daily Bread outreach group will serve dinner **Monday, December 27**. If you are on Team 2 and are unable to serve, please try to arrange for a substitute.

Thanks to all who assist with this important outreach program. If you would like to consider helping out, please contact April Mohr.



Panther Springs United Methodist Church "Walking in Hope, Living in God's Word." December 24, 2021 5:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

The Week-At-A-Glance

Today
5:00 pm Worship in the Sanctuary

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Monday, December 27
Daily Bread Group 2

*Wednesday evening in-person activities
remain temporarily cancelled.*

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Lynn Reagan, Custodian

It's Christmas Eve and All is Well



Check out our Facebook page for all the latest ministry opportunities
Panther Springs United Methodist Church