

CHRISTMAS



Milwood United Methodist
Kalamazoo, Michigan

With Us

2022

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We are Connecting through Christ; Learning, Serving, Witnessing, Worshiping

*please stand if you are able ~ UMH = United Methodist Hymnal ~ FWS = Faith We Sing

Trinity Chimes

Bells

On Christmas Night

Douglas E. Wagner

Call to Worship

Look, everyone! It's Christmas!

Angels are in our midst, telling us the good news:

The God of love is with us!

We're here for a Christmas that makes a difference in our hearts!

Whether you've never set foot in a church before,

Or you have your own personal pew,

The Christ child is born tonight for you.

We're here for a Christmas that makes a difference in our lives!

Whatever arguments you had on the way here,

Wherever you're going next,

Whoever you wish were here with you,

The angels' message is for you!

We're here for a Christmas that makes a difference in the world!

Come, because all are welcome here!

Thanks be to God, amen!

*Carol and Procession

O Come, All ye Faithful
verses 1, 3, 6 (sing final verse in unison)

UMH 234

1. 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;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord

3. Sing choirs of angels,
sing in exultation; O
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest. *Refrain.*

6. Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Welcome

Pastor Caleb Williams

Lighting the Christ Candle

Unison Prayer

God of every nation and people, from the beginning of creation you have made your love known to us. When our need for a Savior was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord bless all who look upon this manger. May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of us all. May he live and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

UMH 211

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

A Service of Lessons & Carols

The tradition of Lessons and Carols goes back to Christmas Eve, 1880, in Truro, England. At that point, Christmas carols were considered secular, typically sung door-to-door, not in formal worship. Combining these popular songs with short scripture readings, the service was a hit, spreading across England and to America over the next few years. Tonight's worship trims the original nine lessons down to seven.

Introduction to Lessons & Carols

Pastor Caleb Williams

1ST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Kevin West

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
verses 1 and 4

UMH 218

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! The days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the everlasting years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

2ND LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-2, 6-8

Brianna Gordon

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice and peace.

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night
that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth
it gave great light,
and so it continued
both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

6TH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Candace Williams

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus and offer him gifts.

Bells

We Three Kings

arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

7TH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Pastor Caleb Williams

John unfolds the great mystery of God-with-us in poetry.

Solo

O Holy Night
Kenneth Young, Bass

Adolph Adam

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by the cradle we stand;
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here come the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger; Behold you King! Before Him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His Holy name.
Christ is the Lord, Oh praise His name forever, His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Reflection

Unto Us

Pastor Caleb Williams

Choir

Still, Still, Still

arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping;
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you;

Sleep, sleep, sleep 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

Christmas Prayer

Pastor Caleb Williams

*Candle Lighting

*Please stand and hold your candle upright.
Tip unlighted candle into flame of lighted candle.
Do not tip a lighted candle.*

*Carol

Silent Night

UMH 239

first verse accompanied by guitarist Jeremy Williams
sing all four verses and then hum

1. 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.

3. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at thy sight;
glories stream from heaven a-far,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

4. Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

*Christmas Blessing

*Extinguish your candle without tipping it.
You may depart after the choir.*

Postlude

In dulci jubilo (In Quiet Joy)

Marcel Dupré



Today's Worship Leaders: Rev. Caleb Williams, Pastor | Kevin West, Brianna Gordon, Candace Williams, Liturgists | Darlene Sang, Director of Choirs | Carl Doubleday, Organist | Yunsi Zhang, Pianist | Gordy Brodhagen, Dave & Alex Gordon, A.V. Ministry



Poinsettias

Given by:

Carol Barnes
Cara Carman
Jenna Gasidlo
Bonnie Guminski
Dave & Bev Hamman
Dave & Bev Hamman
Mary Hilbrecht
Kathy Neeley
Fred & Darlene Sang
Fred & Darlene Sang
Fred & Darlene Sang
Fred & Darlene Sang
Colleen Stano & Caleb Williams
Tamara & Jeremy Williams
Gary & Donna Willoughby
Gloria Visser & Family

In memory of:

Her Parents
Judi Everts
Joel Gasidlo Senior
Lou Guminski
Red & Velnoe Hamman
Lillian & Harold Nichols
Her Loved Ones
Bill & MaryLou Slack
Andy Rose
Roland Eisenman
Shirley Verbilis
Fredric Sang
Eldryd Perry
Glenys & Terence Williams
Skai Mateus
Mel Visser

In honor of:

Emily (Mattison) Brody
Carl Doubleday
Carl Doubleday
Jenna Gasidlo
Chuck & Marcia Luken
Fred & Darlene Sang
Milwood UMC Church Family
Milwood UMC Church Family
Milwood UMC Church Family

Gary & Julie Mattison's 50th Anniversary
Darlene Sang
The Choir & Bell Choir
Evelyn Richter
Their 50th Wedding Anniversary
The Chancel & Bell Choir
Gordy & Brenda Brodhagen
Spencer & all the Pantry Volunteers
The Gordon Family



Merry Christmas!

Welcome to the back of the bulletin! If you're reading this during the sermon, my apologies for being so boring. If you're reading this later, I'm impressed! Chances are, though, you're in a seat waiting for Christmas Eve worship to begin. So, as you sit there, here are some things you might want to know:

- We are so glad you're here!
- You look great! Whether you're in a suit or your best holy jeans!
- Don't worry about kids or noisy adults, we're a no hush, no shush church!
- Even if you don't like your voice, I hope you sing out with gusto. Once we're all singing, it can be really magical.
- Don't forget to tip the unlit candle, not the lit one. It'll keep wax from dripping all over you.
- We hope you have a lovely time tonight and that you feel God's love.
- Oh, and the fun doesn't stop after Christmas! Check out what's next:

What's Next in January: Milwood at the Movies

Each Friday in January (6pm), we're getting together here in this room for a **free movie with free popcorn and candy**. Then Sunday's message will use that movie as a jumping off point exploring how we can make space for grace in our relationships. I'm excited because these are some of my favorite movies. We're starting on 1/6 with our kid friendly movie, the dazzling and deep **How to Train Your Dragon**. Then on 1/13, it's the charming, challenging, and timeless **Babette's Feast**. On 1/20, "Fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles..." it's **The Princess Bride**. And finally, our last week, we're headed to the theater to watch **A Man Called Otto**, Tom Hanks' new version of the comedy-drama book and movie **A Man Called Ove**. Look for details on our theater as we get closer.

*Peace & Love,
Pastor Caleb Williams*



MilwoodUnitedMethodistChurch.org | facebook.com/MilwoodUMC
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