



**"The child grew  
and became strong,  
filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God  
was upon him."  
Luke 2:40**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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DECEMBER 29, 2024

*FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY*

*(\* The congregation will please stand as able  
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

*SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING*

Prelude

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (\*\*\*)

Children of God, Jesus Christ is born!

**God has come to make a home among us!**

Yet the story is not over.

After birth comes the ordinary and mundane growing,  
maturing, and discovering, even for the Christ Child.

**In the ordinary and mundane,**

**God has come to make a home among us.**

And sometimes, in the midst of the everyday,  
something surprising happens,  
and we discover anew

just what God is up to in our midst.

**In the surprising and spectacular,**

**God has come to make a home among us.**

Children of God, let us worship the God  
who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.

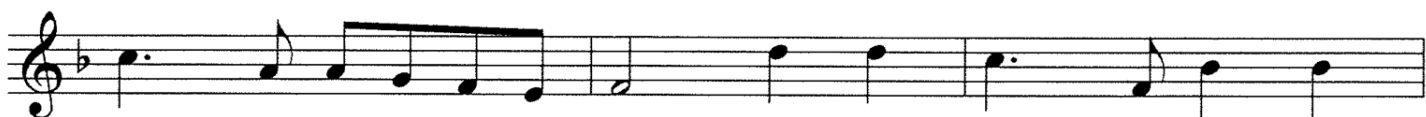
**We come to make our home with God  
who makes a home among us. Amen.**



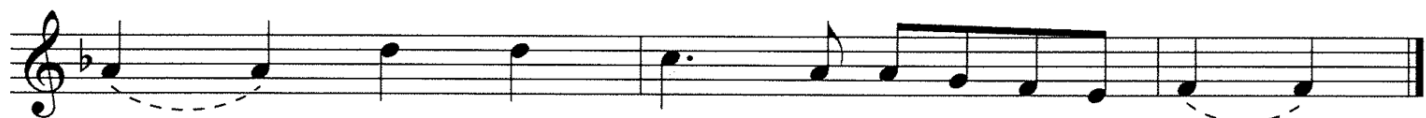
1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle  
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of  
 3. And through all his won - drous child - hood he would hon - or and o -  
 4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day, like us he  
 5. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing  
 6. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing



shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
 all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 bay, love and watch the low - ly maid - en, in whose  
 grew; he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and  
 love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our  
 by we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at



man - ger for his bed; Ma - ry, lov - ing moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall. With the poor, and mean, and  
 gen - tle arms he lay: Chris - tian child - ren all must  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feel - eth for our  
 Lord in hea - ven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren  
 God's right hand on high; where like stars his child - ren



mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 be mild, o - be - dient, good as he  
 sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.  
 crowned, all in white shall wait a - round.

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## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (\*\*\*)**

Most Loving God,

because you knew how twisted  
and corrupted our humanity had become,  
you sent us your Holy Son—

**We name him Jesus, our Savior,  
for he has saved us from our sins.**

Because you have stood in our shoes  
and understand how difficult it is to live  
by the rule of law in an often cold,  
unfeeling, and ruthless world—

**We name him Jesus, our Savior,  
for he is this very day saving us from all our sins.**

Because you have given us a gracious spirit,  
forgiving those who sin against us,  
and you call us to a ministry of reconciliation  
in a fractured world—

**We proclaim him Jesus, our Savior,  
for he will save our world from its many sins**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God of Christmas, God of unspeakable grace,  
forgive and renew us all,  
that our lives may declare  
the wonders of that Holy Love

that has called us out of darkness into glorious light.

**Amen!**

### **THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS SHARED**

# THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: [Isaiah 61:10-62:3](#) (Pg. 604) \*\*

## ANTHEM

### MIDWINTER

*Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894); arranged by Bob Chilcott*

In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim Thronged the air -  
But only His mother In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved With a kiss.

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man I would do my part;  
Yet what I can, I give Him - Give my heart.

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## TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL

## \*HYMN OF PREPARATION

### 226 My Master, See, the Time Has Come

1. My Mas-ter, see, the time has come to give your ser-vant leave  
2. For I have seen sal - va-tion, Lord. Now may the whole world see  
to go in peace, long wait-ed for, your prom-ise now ful - filled.  
that light which is your Is-rael's boast en - light-ening ev-ery land.

WORDS: Luke 2:29-32

MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813;  
harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

MORNING SONG  
CM

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**\*GOSPEL LESSON:**

**[Luke 2: 22-40](#)**

**(Pg. 833) \*\***

For the word of God in Scripture,  
For the word of God among us,  
For the word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

# \*GLORIA PATRI (Verse 4)

## ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

GLORIA

Verses



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man - ger laid Whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



1. And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
2. Say what may the tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song.
3. Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
4. Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.; tr. fr. *Crown of Jesus Music, II*, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813–1882, and others, alt. Music: Trad. French carol.

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SERMON Donna Downes – Guest Speaker

**"Who Are You Waiting For?"**

**THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD**

# \*HYMN

## Love Has Come



1. Love has come, a light in the dark - ness! Love shines  
2. Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is  
3. Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is



forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has  
God now a - sleep in the hay. See the glow in the  
life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with -



come to pro - claim it. Hear how their song of joy a -  
eyes of his moth - er. What is the name her heart is  
in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are



ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a Sav - ior!  
say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she whis - pers.  
seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christ - mas.



Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!  
Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el!  
Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b.1950, © 1996, LNWhymns.com. Admin. by Music Services  
Tune: UN FLAMBEAU, 9 9 10 9 9 8; French carol; harm. by Ronald F. Krisman, b.1946

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711296.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Sharing of Joys and Concerns*



## PRAYER SONG (Verse ONE)

### INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

W ZLOBIE LEZY

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, For his bed a  
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing Vi - gil till the

1. cat - tle stall; Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing  
2. morn - ing new. Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry,

1. Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing,  
2. Tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row,

1. No - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
2. Prais - es voic - ing greet the mor - row: Christ the babe was born for you.

Text: 87 87 88 77; Polish carol; tr. by Edith M. Reed, 1885–1933. Music: Polish carol.

Words: Trad. Polish Carol 1925, Public Domain; Music © 1965 Abingdon Press; Permission to reprint and record granted under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) # A-711296.

### Invitation to Prayer:

Leader: "The Lord be with you "

People: "And also with you..."

### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

### PRAYER SONG (Verse 2, from above)

#### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.*

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

# DOXOLOGY

D Bm A A<sup>7</sup> D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup>

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> Bm A A<sup>7</sup>

creatures here below. Praise God above, ye

12 D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D

heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

18 A<sup>7</sup> D Bm F<sup>#m</sup> D G A<sup>7</sup> D A

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A<sup>7</sup>/E D/F<sup>#</sup> D/A A<sup>7</sup> D

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: Trad. English Carol

*THE FIRST NOEL*  
Irr. with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: [music@gbod.org](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

## Offertory Prayer:

# THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

# \*HYMN OF DEDICATION

## Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry-where,

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

Verses

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 our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: Negro Spiritual; adapt. by John W. Work, Jr., 1871-1925

Tune: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, 7 6 7 6 with refrain; Negro Spiritual; arr. by Valeria A. Foster, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Words: Negro Spiritual adapt by John W. Work Jr. PUBLIC DOMAIN Music: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN Negro Spiritual arr. Valeria A. Foster © 2000 GIA Publications Inc.; Reprinted and recorded with permission under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) # A-711296.

## \*Benediction

## Voluntary

# Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist:

Rick Mills

Video and Sound Engineer:

Charlie Devito

Altar Flowers:

In Honor of our church family; given by the Benoit's.

Cover Image:

Created by FUMC Staff

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\*\*\*Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at [unfoldinglight.com](http://unfoldinglight.com) & [Discipleship Ministries](http://Discipleship Ministries) online resources.

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## Looking Ahead

### Readings for January 1, 2025

New Years Day

[Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13 / Psalm 8](#)

[Revelation 21:1-6a / Matthew 25:31-46](#)

### Readings for January 5, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord (Observed)

[Isaiah 60:1-6 / Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14](#)

[Ephesians 3: 1-12 / Matthew 2:1-12](#)