Celebrating
The Gift in Song

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World
First United Methodist Church
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CELEBRATING THE GIFT IN SONG

CAROL OF THE BELLS
THE FIRST NOEL
BEHOLD, HE HAS COME
IN THE FIRST LIGHT
WHAT CHILD IS THIS?
MARY, DID YOU KNOW?
A GLORIOUS HALLELUJAH
HE STILL CAME
AWAY IN A MANGER
I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
SILENT NIGHT

Choir
Choir
Choir
Choir
Choir
Choir
Choir
Choir
Choir and Ignite Voices
Sanctifying Grace
Choir
Choir
Choir
Choir

CHANCEL CHOIR

Becky Arterbury
Troy Arterbury
Rhonda Banman
Charlotte Byrd
Sandee Casey
Lou Daniel
David Estrada
Lamanda Griffith
John Hicks

Billy Jordan
Marilyn Joyce
Judy Kirby
Micah Krajca
Alex McCarthy
Carolyn Newsome
Monty Newsome
Martha Oxford
Maaike Plantinga

Maria Powell
Bob Sehon
Jackie Stempel
Joy Stone
Peggy Stutts
Wayne Thames
Alexis Wright
Danielle Wright
Marcy Yates
Candace Clayburn - music director

Sanctifying Grace

Corrine Johnston, vocal & guitar
Coleman Johnston, vocal
Melissa Johnston, vocal
Jenny Grolemund, vocal

Cindy McDonald, vocal
Sharilyn Tullis, piano
Craig Greenberg, guitar
Nick Carr, drums

Speakers

Randall Byrd
Judy Kirby
Lisa Lowry

Instrumentalists

Yvonne Hampton, organist
Lisa Lowry, pianist
Denise Givney, bells
Georgia Gibson, bells

Technical Support

Stephen Marshall, media director
Cody Bradford, sound
James King, video
Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love

8:30 am (Sanctifying Grace)
11:00 am (Josh, Kayce, Emmersyn & Kate Jordan)

*Pastoral Prayer

*The Lord’s Prayer

Celebrating the Gift in Song

Vance Havner, lifelong pastor and revivalist, said this about Christmas:
“Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man – His unspeakable gift of His Son, and the gift of man to God – when we present our bodies a living sacrifice.”

Carol of the Bells

Words & Arrangement by: Peter J. Wilhousky
Music by M. Leontovich

Hark how the bells, sweet silver bells, all seem to say, “Throw cares away” Christmas is here, bringing good cheer, to young and old, meek and the bold. Ding dong ding dong. That is their song, with joyful ring all caroling. One seems to hear, words of good cheer, from everywhere filling the air. Oh, how they pound, raising the sound, o’er hill and dale, telling their tale. Gaily they ring while people sing song of good cheer, Christmas is here. Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas, Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas. On, on they send, on without end, their joyful tone to every home. (Repeat) Ding dong ding... dong!

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Music: Public Domain

Hymn

The First Noel

UM #245, vs. 1
BEHOLD, HE HAS COME
Words by Claire Cloninger
Music & Arrangement by: Robert Sterling

Behold He has come (He is) God’s only Son
He is the One sent to save us
Behold He has come God’s only Son
He is the One we adore.

And we lay down our crowns before Him
And we lift up our hearts to adore Him
He’s God’s only Son the long awaited One
Behold, behold, He has come.

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In the Gospel of Matthew, the first chapter we are told:

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

IN THE FIRST LIGHT
Words & Music by Bob Kauflin
Arrangement by: David T. Clydesdale

In the first light of the new day, No one knew He had arrived
Things continued as they had been, While a newborn softly cried
But the heavens wrapped in wonder, Knew the meaning of His birth
In the weakness of a baby, They knew God had come to earth.

As His mother held Him closely, It was hard to understand
That her baby not yet speaking, Was the Word of God to man
He would tell them of His kingdom, But their hearts would not believe
They would hate Him and in anger, They would nail Him to a tree.

But the sadness would be broken, As the song of life arose,
And the firstborn of creation, Would ascend and take His throne.
He had left it to redeem us, but before His life began,
He knew He’d come back not as a baby, But as the Lord of ev’ry man.

Hear the angels as they’re singing, On the morning of His birth
But how much greater will our song be, When He comes again to earth
Hear the angels as they’re singing, on the morning of His birth.
(But) how much greater will our song be, When He comes again to earth
When He comes to rule the earth, When he comes back,
When he comes back to rule the earth!

MARY, DID YOU KNOW?
Words and Music by Buddy Greene | Mark Lowry
Arrangement by: Buddy Greene

Mary did you know That your baby boy Would one day walk on water?
Mary did you know That your baby boy Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know That your baby boy Has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered Will soon deliver you. Mary, did you know?

Mary did you know, That your baby boy, Would give sight to the blind man?
Mary did you know, That your baby boy, Would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know, That your baby boy, has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, You’ve kissed the face of God?
Oh Mary did you know? Did you know?

The blind will see, The deaf will hear, The dead will live again!
The lame will leap, The dumb will speak, The praises of the Lamb!
Oh Mary did you know, That your baby boy, Is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know, That your baby boy, Will one day rule the nations?
Did you know, That your baby boy, Is heaven’s perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you’re holding, Is the great I Am!
Mary, did you know?
(Repeat)

In the Gospel of Luke the first chapter we are told:

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

THE GLORIOUS HALLELUJAH
A Hallelujah Christmas by Clovertong

I’ve heard about this baby boy, Who’s come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you, it goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift, With every breath I’m singing Hallelujah
Hallelujah

A couple came to Bethlehem, Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon, There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay God’s only Son was born, oh Hallelujah
Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night, To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You, It was just as the angels said
You’ll find Him in a manger bed, Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah
Hallelujah
A star shown bright up in the east, To Bethlehem, the wisemen three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were, Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I know You came to rescue me, This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you, My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross, too; Still every breath You drew was
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

OFFERTORY PRAYER
DOXOLOGY

HE STILL CAME WITH HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
Words & Music by Donna Douglas & Pam Thumb
Arranged by Dr. O.D. Hall

No palace, no jewels, no kingdom to rule, no crown of majesty. No throne and no robe, no silver
no gold, no courts of royalty. Yet the King of kings left heaven to become a lowly man. He left
all heaven’s glory to fulfill His Father’s plan.

[Refrain]
He still came, just for me He still came. Knowing all He would endure, He still came. Disre-
garding every cost, from the manger to the cross, He still came just for me, He still came.

No family, no friends, to help at the end, no out, no substitute. Much pain and much hurt, to
give love and worth, He bore our sins abuse. Yet the hope of what He offered so outweighed
what must be done. He chose to be my victor and assured my pardon won.

[Refrain]
He still came, just for me He still came. Knowing all He would endure, He still came. Disre-
garding every cost, from the manger to the cross, He still came just for me, He still came.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Disregarding every cost from the manger to the cross,
He still came just for me. He still came. He still came.
The Birth of Christ is told in this way in Luke chapter 2:

4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Music by Jean Baptiste Calking
New Words & Music by Bernie Herms, Mark Hall and Dale Oliver
Arranged by Dave Williamson

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet Their songs repeat Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

Refrain:

And the bells are ringing “Peace on earth.”
Like a choir, they’re singing “Peace on earth.”
In my heart I hear them “Peace on earth goodwill to men.”

And in despair I bowed my head, “There is no peace on earth,” I said, “For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men.”

Refrain:

And the bells are ringing “Peace on earth.”
Like a choir, they’re singing “Peace on earth.”
Does anybody hear them? “Peace on earth goodwill to men.”

Then rang the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
Peace on earth, peace on earth.
the wrong shall fail, the right prevail
with peace on earth, goodwill to men.”

Then ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day.
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

Refrain:
   And the bells are ringing “Peace on earth.”
   Like a choir, they’re singing “Peace on earth.”
   With our hearts, we’ll hear them “Peace on earth goodwill to men.”

Do you hear the bells? They’re ringing “Peace on earth.”
Like the angels singing “Peace on earth.”
Open up your heart and hear them “Peace on earth goodwill to men.”

Peace on earth. Peace on earth. Peace on earth goodwill to men.

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION   Silent Night   UM #239

Prayer List

Dejah Arnold          Elaina Davis          Margie Jaggers          Karen Martin
Zoey Arthur          Norma Jean Draper     Nadine Jennings        Lou Gene Maxton
Jackie Bateman        Lila Drees           Carroll Johnson       Deborah McQuiddy
Roger Bawdon          Kenny Duck           Jolynn Johnson        Lanny Moore
David Brewer          James Duck           Sue Johnson           Gail Morris
Patty Cheatwood       Chuck Etheridge      Carson Jones          Johnny Newsom
Terri Coleman         Victoria Fletcher     Robert Jones          Dawn Parsons
Michael Collins       Jim Fritz            John Kennedy          Lena Mae Reeder
Verna Curry           Travis Gann          Bob Kerr              Oscar Reeder
Carolyn Dalton        Ken Greene           Roger Knippenberg     Don Rose

Please Note: Names added to the prayer list will remain on the list for 30 days if needed. They will be relisted by request.
What Joy?????

The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-on-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists.

When life seems overwhelming, perhaps a Stephen Minister can assist you.

Want to know more?
Talk to Pastor Cotten or call
Pat Hudson at 903-588-3116 or
Mary Bane at 903-860-2193.

This Week

Sunday, December 18
8:30 am Worship Service
9:30 am Refreshments
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

Thursday, December 22
Rainbow Daycare closed

Friday, December 23
FUMC & Rainbow Daycare closed

Saturday, December 24
5:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25
9:45 am One Service Only

Wednesday Nite Live

Wednesday Nite Live Dinner Will Return January 11, 2017

Thank You!

The staff of FUMCMV would like to thank the Staff Parish Relation Committee for a wonderful gathering at Our Place and for treating us to a nice dinner and great fellowship. We are so blessed to know and to have each of you and your support.

Eternally Grateful
FUMC Staff

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

FUMC Staff

NURSERY
We have a nursery available for your children in Rainbow Hall.

Finance Counters
December
18 Bob Singer       Mike Fisk
25 Mike Fisk        Bob Singer

MINISTRIES

The Congregation

CHILD CARE DIRECTOR
Ellen Leslie

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Candace Clayburn

MEDIA DIRECTOR
Stephen Marshall

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
Kathy Byrd

ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT
Lynne Overstreet

FACILITY MANAGEMENT
Cody Bradford

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
Pam Williams

CHILDREN’S DIRECTOR
Pam Greenberg

YOUTH DIRECTOR
Cindy McDonald

MUSICIAN
Yvonne Hampton

PASTOR
Rev. Stephen Cotten

December 23rd - January 2nd, closed for the holidays
January 3rd, open @ 8:30 am.

Emergency Call Numbers are:
Kathy Byrd @903-588-5990 or
Stephen Cotten @ 214-732-7711.
Thanks to all for your generous support of our community and children through the Christmas Store and Angel Tree. On a very cold evening, 100 families came to the Christmas store looking not only for gifts but also for warm coats and clothing. Love and care were evident to all who came. Because of your generosity, 80 children’s Christmas wishes were filled by FUMC, with a total 300 recipients for the Community Angel Tree. Thank you for giving the gifts of love and hope which come through Jesus Christ.
There is no human experience that causes more exuberant joy or more debilitating pain.....than LOVE.

A simple 4-letter word: LOVE.

Who reading this hasn't felt the indefinable feeling of being madly in love? And who reading this hasn't felt the shards-of-glass feeling of rejection? I have no idea what it feels like to look into the eyes of a child made up of your own DNA.....a piece of YOU....but I would imagine it must be like stepping outside of oneself and actually being able to touch the word Love....much like the touch of a rose in your hand I would imagine. It's tangible....it's real.....it's risky.

Yet.....have you noticed we use that same word to describe our favorite coffee we order at Watermelon Mills? No matter how that Pumpkin-Spiced-Latte makes you feel, it's simply not Love.

See, real love always involves another 4-letter word: RISK. The risk of giving a piece of ourselves to someone else and having that gift treasured or being crushed like a bad bug. We risk....we surrender....we take a chance on others....we take a chance on others....we take a chance on others....we take a chance on others....we take a chance on God.....much like He took a chance on us.

LOVE the Lord your God with all your heart, Soul, Strength, Mind...
And love your neighbor as yourself."
Luke 10:27

But here's the crazy cool part: He shows us HOW to love......He frees us up to love deeply because....wait-for-it......we ourselves are deeply loved.

Liz Etheridge