



# Cheltenham United Methodist Church

THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART

Thursday, December 24, 2020  
Christmas Eve  
6:00 p.m.



*Madonna and Child in Nazareth by Pastor Rachel B. Livingston*

Cheltenham United Methodist Church  
11111 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD 20623  
Rev. Rachel Livingston, Pastor

**Worship with us Online via Zoom**

**Join URL: <https://bit.ly/CUMCChristmasEve>**

**Calling in and listening in on your telephone**

**Dial +1 (301) 715-8592**

**Enter meeting ID: 861 6676 4909#**

**Password: 001873**

**Via Facebook**

**[www.facebook.com/CheltenhamUMC](http://www.facebook.com/CheltenhamUMC)**

**Sunday, December 24, 2020**

Christmas Eve

**GATHERING**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

HYMN SING

+HYMN

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

UMH 239

*Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. By John F. Young; st. 4 trans. Anon (Lk. 2:6-20)*

*Music: Franz Gruber, 1818*

*Tune: STILLE NACHT*

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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,  
heavenly 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.

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!

+HYMN

**“Joy to the World”**

UMH 246

*Words: Issac Watts, 1719 (Ps.98:4-9)*

*Music: Arr. From G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848*

*Tune: ANTIOCH*

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Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

+HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

UMH 240

*Words: Charles Wesley, 1743; alt. by George Whitefield, 1753, and others (Lk 2:8-14)*

*Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. By William H. Cummings, 1856*

*Tune: MENDEISSOHN*

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Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Refrain*

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th’incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Refrain*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lay his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

*Refrain*

+HYMN                      “Angels We Have Heard on High”                      UMH 238

*Words: Trad. French carol; trans. Crown of Jesus, 1862, alt. (Lk. 2:6-20)*

*Music: French carol melody; arr. By Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964*

*Tune: GLORIA*

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Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

*Glo- - - - -ri-a, in excelsis Deo!*

*Glo- - - - -ri-a, in excelsis Deo!*

Shepherd, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?

*Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Refrain*

See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.

*Refrain*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.  
May the light sent from God shine in the darkness

to show us the way of salvation.

**O come, O come Emmanuel.**

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ being our peace.

May the Word sent from God through the prophets

lead us to the way of salvation and may Christ's peace rest with us.

**O come, O come Emmanuel.**

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.

May the joyful promise of your presence, O God,

make us rejoice in your hope of salvation.

**O come, O come Emmanuel**

We light this candle as a symbol Christ being the very essence of love.

May the visitation of the Holy Spirit, O God,

make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

**O come, O come Emmanuel.**

We light this night, the Christ candle as a symbol that Christ is our light in the world.

We celebrate that he came in the form of a lowly baby,

that through him, the world might be saved.

**O come, O come Emmanuel.**

+HYMN

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

UMH 204

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:26-55

+MUSIC

“What Child is This”

UMH 219

SERMON

A Visit From Mary

Pastor Rachel B. Livingston

+MUSIC

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

UMH 230

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

GIVING MOMENT

+OFFERTORY

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

UMH 218

### **GOING FORTH**

+BENEDICTION

+RECESSIONAL

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## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Luke 1:26-55 NRSV** • <sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. <sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**Luke 2:1-20 NRSV** • In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.