

**ALLENTOWN UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2021

7:00 p.m.

An * denotes standing in body or spirit.

Music As We Gather

Dr. David Leifer

*Call to Worship

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word was God.

**P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Let the seas roar and the mountains quake.**

L: Everything came into being through the Word.
What came into being was life, and the life was the
light for all people.

**P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done
marvelous things.**

L: The Word became flesh and blood, and lived among
us to bring all people to the light.

**P: Let heaven and earth break forth into joyous song,
singing praises to our God.**

L: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness
has not overcome it.

**P: Christ, our light, shines forth in glory.
Christ, our life, brings grace and truth.
Let us worship. Alleluia!**

*Hymn "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" #218

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Opening Prayer

How beautiful upon the mountains, O God, are messengers of your light and love who come announcing peace. How delightful in the congregation are voices singing the good news of our salvation. How wonderful in the wretched places of our world are heralds of your justice and mercy who proclaim the coming of your reign. Bring us your peace, Holy One, and remind us once more of the good news of our salvation, that we might sing with joy this day, and shout for all the world to hear. Christ is born. Alleluia!

The Lord's Prayer

Carol #238 – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

First Lesson: God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 Deirdre Lloyd

8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

10 He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.”

13 Then the LORD God said to the women, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

14 The LORD God said to the serpent;

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals

and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

17 And to the man he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree about which
I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

16 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Carol #196 – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Second Lesson: God promises to faithful Abraham that his seed shall the nations of the earth call blessed.

Genesis 22:15-18 Joan West

15 The angel of the LORD called Abraham a second time from heaven,

16 and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son,

17 “I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,

18 and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Carol #211 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Third Lesson: Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Tina Wisniewski

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol #251 – “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Fourth Lesson: The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2-5 Tina Wisniewski

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

5 and he shall be the one of peace.

Fifth Lesson: The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-35, 38 Linda Watson

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.”

34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 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.

38 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.

Carol #219 – “What Child Is This”

Sixth Lesson: Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-21 Alice Lloyd

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.”

Carol #246 – “Joy to the World”

Seventh Lesson: The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16 Joan West

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!”

15 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.”

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol #217 – “Away in a Manger”

Eighth Lesson: The wise men are led by the star of Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11 Deirdre Lloyd

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2 asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol #254 – "We Three Kings"

Ninth Lesson: Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-14 Rev. Dr. Jessica Davis

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being

4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.

11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Prayer (prayed together): **ETERNAL GOD, WHO BY THE BIRTH OF YOUR BELOVED SON JESUS CHRIST DID GIVE YOURSELF TO US: GRANT THAT, BEING BORN IN OUR HEARTS, CHRIST MAY SAVE US FROM OUR SINS, AND RESTORE WITHIN US THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF YOU, OUR CREATOR, TO WHOM BE EVERLASTING PRAISE AND GLORY, WORLD WITHOUT END, AMEN.**

*Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" #239

*Dismissal with Blessing

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord.

P: We will sing praises to our God.

L: Walk in the light of Christ.

P: We will share the joy of God's holy love.

L: Be messengers of hope and peace.

P: We will proclaim the good news.

Christ is born. Alleluia!

*Passing of Peace

Music As We Part

**The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019

SONG SHEET

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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.

Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849
Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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.

Words: 9th cent. Latin
Music: 15th cent. French

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

Words: John W. Work, Jr., 1907
Music: Afro-American spiritual

Angels We Have Heard on High

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

Words and Music: French carol

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744
Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

What Child Is This

What a child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Words: William C. Dix, 1865
Music: 16th cent. English melody

Joy to the World

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.

Words: Issac Watts, 1719
Music: G.F. Handel, 1741

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Words: Anon.
Music: James R. Murray, 1887

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
west-ward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Words and Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818
Music: Franz Gruber, 1818

*23 Church Street
Allentown, New Jersey
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2021*

POINSETTIAS

*Thank you to everyone who gave the beautiful
poinsettias.*

4 Geoffrey and Melinda Brown in memory of loved ones
In honor of loved ones.

Rev. Jessica Davis in memory of my mother, Pastor Ida
Davis.

2 Richard Heller in memory of my wife, Phyllis. In honor
of my children and grandchildren.

2 The Lloyd Family in memory of McHenry and Anne
Stiff. In memory of F. Howard Lloyd and family.

4 Shirley Mayer in memory of my husband, Miles. In
honor of my children, grandchildren, and great
grandchildren.

2 Doug and Katherine Paige in memory of parents, John
and Iva Clark, and Natalie and Peter Clark. In memory of
my brother, William Clark.

Bob Pepler in memory of my wife, Judy.

2 David and Georgia Poinsett in memory of loved ones. In
honor of loved ones.

Dale and Linda Watson in memory of loved ones and in
honor of children and grandchildren.

Stanley and Tina Wisniewski in honor of Stanley
Wisniewski, III. In thanksgiving for all blessings.