

**University UMC – Order of Worship**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 10 AM**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Christmas Cantata**

**Christmas Overture & Processional**

**“O’ Come, All Ye Faithful” (UMH 234)**

- v. 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.  
O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him.  
O come let us a adore Him, Christ the Lord.
- v. 3 Yea, Lord we greet Thee: born this happy morning.  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n,  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him.  
O come let us a adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**Gathering & Recognition of Guests:**

- Leslie Kowalski

**Announcements:**

- Leslie Kowalski

**Christmas Caroling:** Do you like to sing? Join us for Christmas caroling on **Wednesday, December 20 at 5:00 PM** as we share the love of music with our shut-in families. After caroling, we will be having dinner at Applebee's. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dafry for more information.

**Christmas Eve Service:** Join us next week for our Christmas Eve Service at **5 PM**. Celebrate the festive season with joyful music, inspiring messages, and a candlelight vigil in a warm, community atmosphere. We look forward to welcoming everyone for this special evening of reflection and joy.

**Christmas Family:** Join in our Christmas Family Sponsorship tradition at University UMC! Reach out to Bob Denham for guidance on what gifts to donate. A detailed list of needed items is now available for sign up. Let's share the joy of the season with a deserving family!

**SHARE Ministries Meal:** Join us on Saturday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, as we come together to cook, prepare, and serve food to our community.

Volunteers & Donations are greatly appreciated as we are preparing to serve around 3 dozen turkey dinners from 3:00 – 4:15 pm. For more information or to sign-up, please contact Rachel Wintergerst or on the Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board!

**New Year's Eve Game Night:** Join us for a New Year's Eve Game Night tonight from **6 PM to 9 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. It's a perfect opportunity to ring in the New Year with fun and games. We encourage everyone to bring their favorite board games and look forward to an evening filled with fellowship and joy!

**Let there be FAITH**

- Leslie Kowalski

Who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For He shall grow up like a tender plant, and like a root out of parched ground; this shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, from his roots a branch will bear much fruit. *(Isaiah 53:1-2, 11:1 paraphrased)*

This is what the Lord almighty says, "Here is My Servant whose name is 'THE BRANCH,' and from this place, He will build my church." *(Zechariah 6:12 paraphrased)*

**Candle Lighting Liturgy**

- Leslie Hall, Carol Oza, & Unison

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

**We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.**

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

*Light three candles of the Advent wreath. Light the pink candle today.*

**Let there be HOPE**

- Diane Miller

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with God there is steadfast love, and with Him is abundant redemption. Be strong and be of good courage, all you who wait upon the Lord. *(Psalm 130:7; 31:24 paraphrased)*

For they who wait, shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. *(Isaiah 40:31 paraphrased)*

**The Divine Expectation**

-UUMC Choir

**Pastoral Prayer**

- Rev. Rubén Esponda

**Lord's Prayer in Unison**

**Let there be PEACE**

- Rev. Rubén Esponda

Unto you, Bethlehem, though you are small among the tribes of Judah, out of you will come one who will rule over all Israel. He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord; and they will live securely, and His greatness will reach the ends of the earth. And He will be our peace. *(Micah 5:2-5 paraphrased)*

**Concertato on "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (UMH 230)**

- UUMC Choir

v. 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

v. 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth;  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!

v. 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on us we pray.  
Cast out our sin; and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell.  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

**Let there be LOVE**

- Wanda Woolery

This is how the birth of Jesus came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph; but before he knew her, she was found to be with Child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph was a

righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son; and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with Child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a Son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (*Matthew 1:18-25 paraphrased*)

**Carols from a Quiet Manger**

- UUMC Choir

**Let there be JOY**

- Aremi Esponda

And there were shepherds, living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them; and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were very terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel; praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, an on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests. When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” (*Luke 2:8-15 paraphrased*)

**Arise! (Hodie Christus natus est)**

- UUMC Choir

**Let there be WONDER**

- Tony Woolery

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen

His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” (*Matthew 2:1-2 NKJV*)

**“Bleak Midwinter’s Gift”**

- UUMC Choir

**Let there be GRACE**

- Petr Kowalski

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (*John 1:1-5, 9-13 ESV*)

**“Let There be Christmas”**

- UUMC Choir

(\*) **Let there be LIFE (Benediction)**

- Rev. Rubén Esponda

Now may the faith of the prophets,  
the hope of the Scripture,  
the peace of the Christ Child,  
the love of His parents,  
the joy of the shepherds,  
the wonder of the wise men,  
the grace of the season,  
and the life everlasting  
be yours this Christmas.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

(\*) **A Joyful Gathering of Carols**

- UUMC Choir & Congregation

- “Joy to the World,” UMH 246, vv. 1 & 2;
- “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly,” UMH 229, v. 1;
- “Silent Night, Holy Night,” UMH 239,

- "The First Noel," UMH 245, v. 1;
- "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," UMH 240, v. 1

- v.1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room;  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- v.2 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.
- v. Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
"Christ the Babe is Lord of all."
- v. 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.
- v. 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar.  
Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.
- v. The first Noel, the angels did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where 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.
- v. 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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn King;

## **Let There Be Christmas, A Cantata by Joseph M. Martin**

Full orchestration by Brant Adams, Consort orchestration by Stan Pethel  
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**Christmas Overture and Processional** – Words by John Francis Wade (1711-1786). Incorporating tunes: IN DULCI JUBILO, MENDELSSOHN, SUSSEX CAROL, SCHULZ, IL EST NÉ, GLORIA and ADESTE FIDELES. Arranged by Joseph M. Martin (BMI)

**The Divine Expectation** – Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Based on tunes: BRING A TORCH, Traditional French Melody and HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887). Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

**Concertato on O Little Town of Bethlehem** – Words by Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Tune: FOREST GREEN Traditional English Melody. Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

**Carols from a Quiet Manger** – Words by Joseph M. Martin (BMI). Based on tunes: STILL, STILL, STILL, Traditional Austrian Melody, CRUSADER'S HYMN, *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842. Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

**ARISE! (*Hodie Christus natus est*)** – Words by Mary Foil and Stephen Martin. Music by Joseph M. Martin (BMI)

**Bleak Midwinter's gift** – Words by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Incorporating tunes: DARKE, SCOTTISH FOLK TUNE, and CRANHAM. Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

**Let There Be Christmas** – Words and music by Joseph M. Martin (BMI)

**A Joyful Gathering of Carols** – Arranged by Joseph M. Martin (BMI). Incorporating tunes: REGENT SQUARE, ANTIOCH, W ZLOBIE LEZY, STILLE NACHT, THE FIRST NOEL, and MENDELSSOHN