

A stylized, colorful illustration of a Nativity scene. Mary is depicted in a green robe with a blue star on her forehead, looking down at the infant Jesus. Joseph is in a red robe, also looking down. The infant Jesus is in a yellow robe, holding a small brown object. Three wise men are shown in the foreground, wearing crowns and holding gifts. The background features a large blue star and two golden horns or trumpets. The overall style is reminiscent of mid-century modern art.

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Communion Service



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Call to Worship

Christmas Music for Harp and Organ

Gaye LeBlanc, harp &
Stephen Wurst, organ

Welcome

Rockford Johnson

*Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**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;**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

**True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; (Refrain)**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; o sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

7:00 Wendi Neal;
11:00 Rockford Johnson

*Prayer

7:00 Wendi Neal;
11:00 Rockford Johnson

Leader: Gracious God of Light,

We have wandered to this night not unlike people who
wander under a night sky looking for answers,
people who wonder how it is that the story of your love
will release the world from all fear and destruction.

With joy and thanksgiving we gather.

We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.

In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts
that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.

In the name of the Child of Bethlehem, this is our prayer:

**All: Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.
Shine, Great Light, in the shadows of our lives.
Burn gloriously like an eternal candle. Amen**

The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-5

7:00 Trey Witzel;
11:00 Scott Meier

**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.**

Jesus Is Born

Luke 2:6-7

7:00 Trey Witzel;
11:00 Scott Meier

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

Jesus' Birth Announced To the Shepherds Luke 2:8-14

7:00 Wendi Neal;
11:00 Rockford Johnson

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**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!"**

**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 lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

The Shepherds Find the Christ Child Luke 2:15-20

7:00 Wendi Neal;
11:00 Rockford Johnson

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.**

**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.**

Offertory Prayer

7:00 Wendi Neal;
11:00 Scott Meier



The Christmas Eve offering supports all McFarlin ministries, such as our robust Food Pantry and Utilities Assistance efforts. Scan the QR code to give or visit www.mcfarlinumc.org/give

Anthem

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt - Craig Courtney

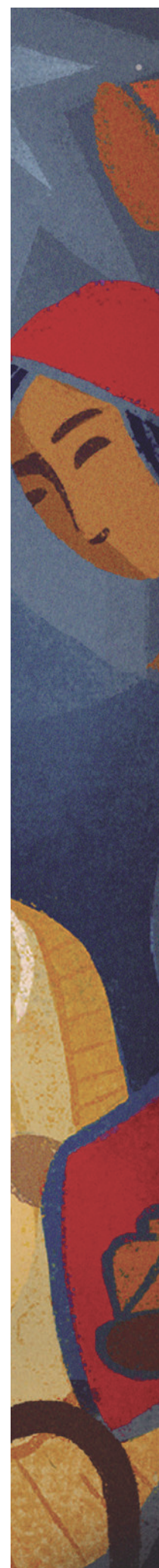
Chancel Choir;
Libby Waldenville, flute

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred, but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
sweet newborn babe, how frail, and in a manger bed, a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled?
With pounding heart I stare: a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how love was born, and burned its way into my heart
unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me?



Christmas Eve Communion

Communion is served by intinction - lightly dip your bread into the cup. You are invited to kneel at the communion rail for prayer or return to your seat by the outside aisles. For those unable to come to the front, a server will bring the elements to you.

All offerings left during communion are part of the annual Christmas Offering.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

And so, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Sung) **Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

... And so, ... we recall the mystery of faith:

(Sung) **We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

... All honor and glory is yours, all gracious and loving God, now and forever.

(Sung) **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Carol Medley (words will be on the screens)**Unison Prayer**

**On this holy night, we stand in awe of the light of the message of Jesus Emmanuel,
born among us as God with us, who lived a life like our own, and showed us the way to you.
Give us grace to live as Jesus lived, teach us to love as Jesus loved,
that the glory of your love and peace might shine against the darkness. Amen.**

Special Music

O Holy Night - Adolphe-Charles Adam

Kayley Williamson

***Carol**

"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.**

**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!**