

Order of Worship
CHRISTMAS EVE
9:30 am – December 24, 2023

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

He Is Born

arr. Mary McDonald

Kyle Hanks, organ

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Tasha Salas

There is room for you here.

If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.

If you're new to this place, or have been here before.

Come in, come in. There is room for you here.

The angels are singing, "Be not afraid."

The angels are singing, "Good news and great joy!"

So come in, come in! There is room for us here.

All words for worship adapted from How Does a Weary World Rejoice:
Words for Worship by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Salas Family

How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

How does a weary world combat cruelty?

How does a weary world shine a light into our bleak world?

We do all these things with God's help.

For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.

Today, Christ draws near.

Today, we light the Christ Candle.

Today, we are not alone.

God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen.

All words for worship adapted from How Does a Weary World Rejoice:
Words for Worship by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1,3,5,6)

UMH 234

Words and Music: John F. Wade, ca. 1743. Public Domain.

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;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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

5. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee with love and awe.
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? **(Refrain)**

6. 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)**

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-20 NRSV)
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Tasha Salas, liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Gift
Diana Burdick, Soprano; Kyle Hanks, Piano
CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371/ CCLI Song # 2818687

arr. William Cutter

A TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PREPARATION HYMN

Away in a Manger

UMH 217

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

1. 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.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

MESSAGE

Pastor Cindy Huskey

MUSICAL RESPONSE

A Celtic Gloria from "Tapestry of Light"

by Joseph M. Martin

VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson, Director; Kyle Hanks, Piano

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of angel choruses and teenage mothers, there are a million other places we could be, but today we wanted to be here. Today, we needed to be here—online and in person, worshiping together on this joy-filled Christmas Eve. In gratitude, we offer our gifts to you. Bless these gifts that we bring. As we offer them to you, remind us of how you offered the Christ child – your child – to a weary world in need. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH 246

Words: Issac Watts, 1719. Public Domain. Music: arr. Lowell mason, 1848. Public Domain.

1. 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.
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.
3. 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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Recessional on "I Saw Three Ships"
Kyle Hanks, Organ

Douglas E. Wagner

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A Celtic Gloria

Give praise all creation. Rejoice ev'ry nation. With glad jubilation sing, "Jesus is born!"
The stars all are singing. The bells all are ringing.
The people are bringing their praise to the Lord!
Sing, "Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Jesus is born!"
The music is swelling. The heavens are telling with songs, so compelling, that "Jesus is born!"
The angels on high raise a jubilant song!
They soar through the heavens with shouts clear and strong! "Gloria! Jesus is born!"
Come celebrate joy all you people of light! The Savior is born on this glorious holy night!
A new day is breaking. A new hope is waking. God's promise is taking our darkness away.
The day shines with glory as dawn tells the story,
for this is the morning God wakes us with grace.
Sing, "Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Jesus is born!"
Give praise all creation. Rejoice ev'ry nation. With glad jubilation sing, "Jesus is born!"

Prayer Requests

Estero Bay UMC —Pastor Steven Poteete-Marshall

First German UMC—Pastor Kurt Poland

Pastor Matt and the entire McPhee family—mother Pam McPhee passed away

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.