



Christmas Eve Family Worship

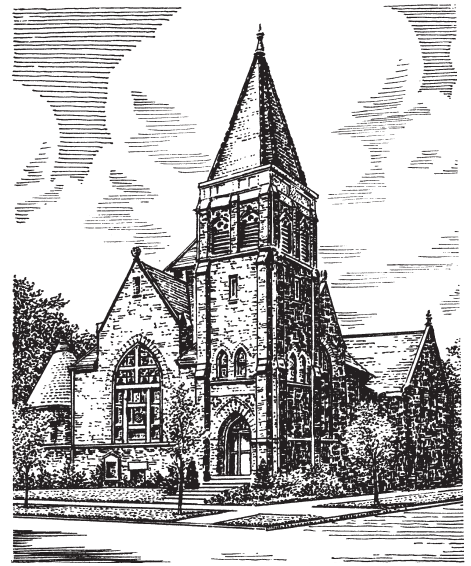
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LONDON, OHIO

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
OF LONDON
Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

7:00 p.m.



CHIMING THE HOUR *In silence, let us quiet our voices and prepare our minds
and hearts to worship the Lord*

GREETING *and* INVOCATION

ORGAN PRELUDE *Noël de Saintonge*

Jean François Dandrieu

CALL TO WORSHIP* (*stand*)

Leader: Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy

People: Which shall be to all people

Leader: For to you is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord

People: Glory to God in the highest

OPENING HYMN* (*stand*) *Angels We Have Heard on High*

see page 6

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH* (*stand*) *The Apostles Creed* (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI* (*stand*) *Glory be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

(*be seated*)

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Terry Family

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

HYMNS* *(stand)*

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Away in a Manger*

*see page 7
see page 8*

GOSPEL LESSON* *(stand)*

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON

Rev. Dave Leckrone

RECEIVING THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING +

OFFERTORY

The Carol of the Birds
offered by Elizabeth McConnaughey, soprano

John Jacob Niles

Oh a many a bird did wake and fly, curoo, curoo, curoo,
Oh a many a bird did wake and fly to the manger bed with a wandering cry on Christmas day in the morning
Curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo.

The lark, the dove, the redbird came, curoo, curoo, curoo,
The lark, the dove, the redbird came and worshipped there in Jesus' name, on Christmas day in the morning,
Curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo.

The owl was there, his eyes so wide, curoo, curoo, curoo
The owl was there, his eyes so wide, as he did sit at Mary's side, on Christmas day in the morning,
Curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo.

The shepherd knelt upon the hay, curoo, curoo, curoo,
The shepherd knelt upon the hay, as angels sang the night away, and God proclaimed the holy day,
Curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo, curoo.
(Text by John Jacob Niles)

PRESENTATION RESPONSE* *(stand)*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

NOTE: Please pass the light of Christ to others until all have received the flame. For your safety, and the safety of others, please **DO NOT** tip lit candles - let the person next to you tip their unlit candle. Continue to burn candles through the singing of our next carol.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL* *(stand)*

Silent Night, Holy Night

see page 9

BENEDICTION* *(stand)*

ORGAN POSTLUDE *(be seated)*

Chorale-Prelude on *Von Himmel Hoch*

Johann Pachelbel

Prayer Requests

CONTINUAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Evone Banks, Bobby Dorn, Gladys Griffith, Joyce Hildebrand, Phyllis Miller,
Sue Minner, Sally Sisterhen, Doris Spahn

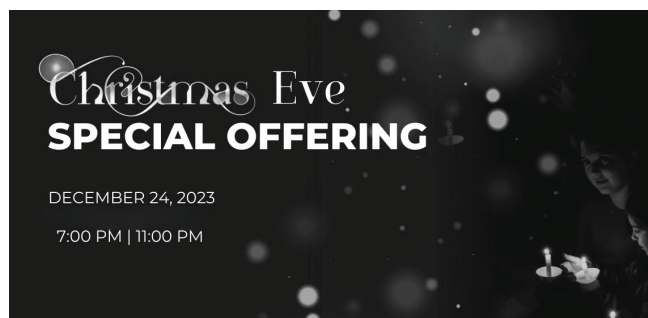
CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

Avalee Adams, Carol Albright, Rachael Allen, Harriet Baker, Laura Beyer, Kim Braddock, Jayden Clark, Becky Cress,
Toni Daniels, Bob Daugherty, Michelle Decoe, Diana, Wood
y Draper, Allison Engle, Linda Finney, Michael Fisher,
Phyllis Follrod, TJ Franklin, Tylor Freeman, Nancy Giles, Carole Gordon, Jane Hackworth, John Harbage, Hope Hecht,
Dee Heilman, Jenn Heuser, Linda Holloway, Gary and Cindy Hoback, Roger Horsely, Gary Hunter, Dan Jones,
Claudia Justice, Jeannie Justice, Ray Justice, Cody Leavens, Jessica Martin, Cris Martinez, Jerod McKenzie, Chuck Miller,
Aiden Norton, Sue Osborn, Pauline Persing, Richard Peterson, Alicia Pullin, Jeff Quatkemeyer, Michele Ramsey,
Marco Ranalli, Steve Richmond, Frank Salyers, Laura Schoeller, Miles Schrock, Jill Wyatt Setty, Nancy Snyder,
Robert Stallings, David Stewart, Rob Suter, Alta Vance, Hayden Weese, Gretchen Wingert,
Gordon Wyllie, Avalene Wyllie, Sandy Young, Heather Zollman

SERVING ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

Lt. Colonel John Crisp ~ Navy Lt Commander Tom Crisp
2nd Lt Cheney Gross ~ 2nd Lt Luke Peart ~ Sgt First Class Mathew Rowley
Caiden Craig—Basic Training

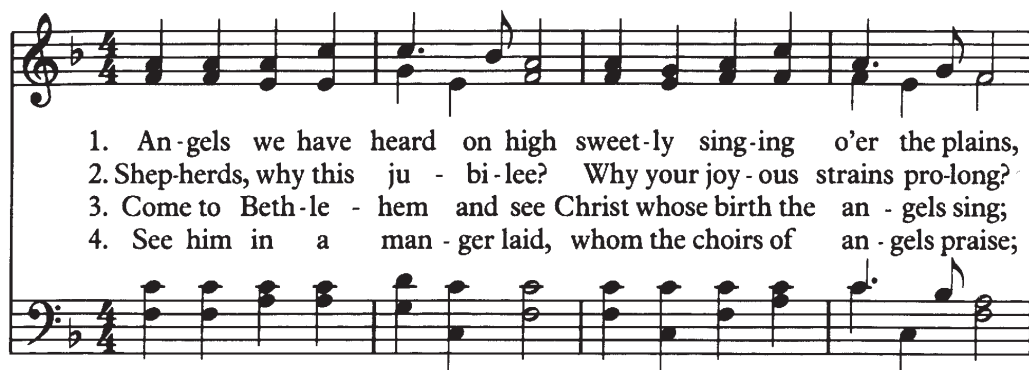
Please pray for the family and friends of those who have given their lives for our nation.



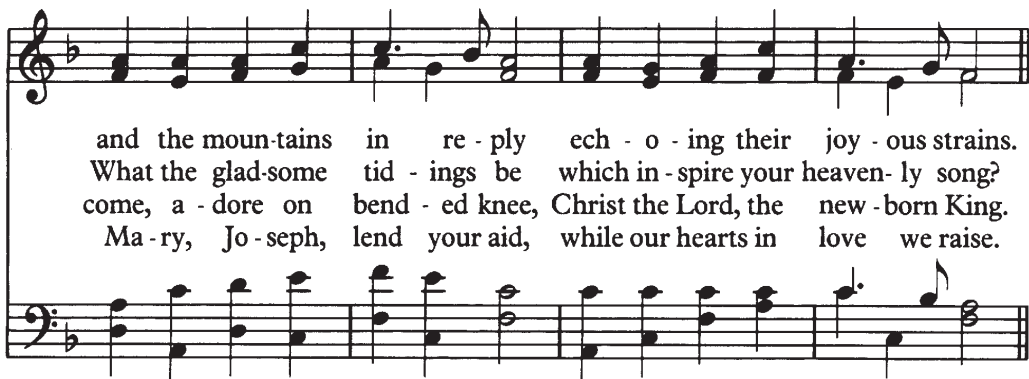
+Half of this evening's offering will go to the pastor's discretionary fund. This is a designated fund made available to our senior pastor to distribute for emergency financial aid to those in need in our community.

The other half of this evening's offering will go to the Ignite! Youth Group's mission trip fund. In June they will go to Costa Rica to offer aid in a community in need.

238 Angels We Have Heard on High



1. An-gels we have heard on high sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4. See him in a man - ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a,



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - -



- - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

It Came upon the Midnight Clear 218



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told



"Peace on the earth, good will to men,* from heaven's all-gracious King."
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing.
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.



*"all" may be substituted

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14)
MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

CAROL
CMD

Away in a Manger

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes;
 close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray;

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky
 bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

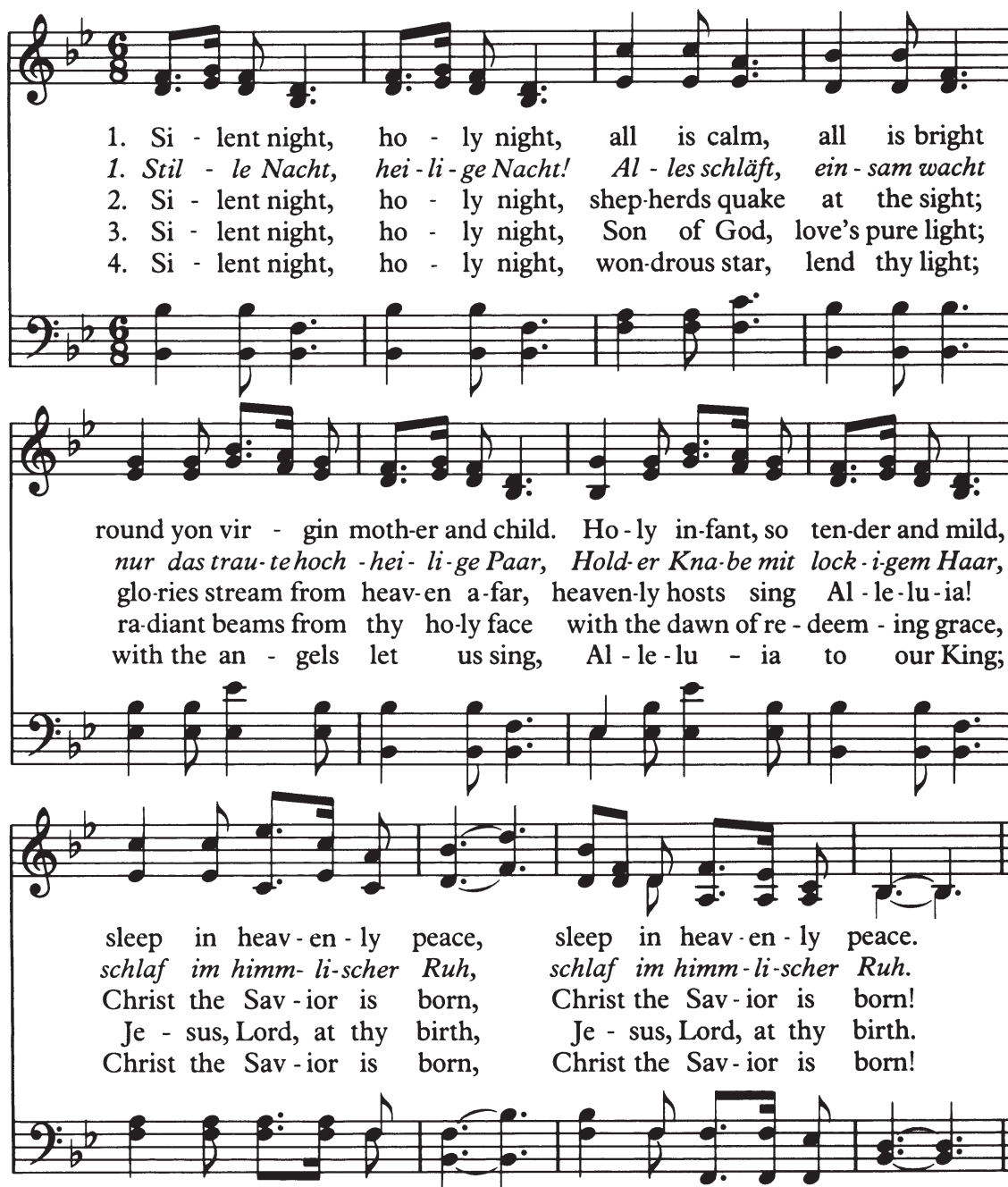
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

WORDS: Anon. (Lk. 2:7)
 MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

AWAY IN A MANGER
 11 11.11 11

Silent Night, Holy Night

239



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant, so ten-der and mild,
nur das trau-te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold-er Kna-be mit lock - i - gem Haar,
 glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far, heav-en-ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav-en - ly peace, sleep in heav-en - ly peace.
schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

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

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.

2025 Christmas

Poinsettia

Acknowledgements

In Celebration

Chris, Carrie, Corinne and Cara Baker
Gail Baker

Hazel & Alina
Judy Brunner

Gail Baker
Greg Cooley & Cathie Littleton

Pastor Dave, Jill, Kyra, Ben
Greg Cooley & Cathie Littleton

Our Church Choir
Greg Cooley & Cathie Littleton

Sandy Fisher
Greg Cooley & Cathie Littleton

Ruth and Luke Peart
Jamie & Valerie Peart

Great Granddaughter Quinn A. Stout
Great Grandmother, Judy Stilwell

In Gratitude

The Zoo Crew
Gail Baker

All the nurses and doctors and the Stephanie Spielman
Comprehensive Breast Center
The Schoeller Family

In Honor

My sister Paula her JQ and Kat
Gail Baker

Sally Moser
The Kenny Davis Family

Sue Minner
Ray & Claudia Justice

Ben & Kyra
Dave & Jill Leckrone

Ann Edwards
Sue Mosier & Valerie Peart

In Memory

My Beloved Husband Randy Baker
Gail Baker

Parents, Carl and Phillis Garber,
and brother Patrick Garber
Gail Baker

Dick Abner
Darlene Abner & Family

Our Parents and Grandparents
Tim & Gina Bogenrife

Ed Chatfield
Bonnie Chatfield

Claris Davis Owens
The Kenny Davis Family

Dad (David Maple)
The Fellure Family

Walter & Ruth Purnell
The Gowdy Family

Jack & Joan Acri
Thy Gowdy Family

Shanon Gowdy
The Gowdy Family

Frank Hildebrand
The Hildebrands

*The crèche of the Holy Family on the Altar table is a
memorial gift to First Church in memory of Frank.*

Dr. John & Louise Jordan
Jenny & Drew Hildebrand

Wolfgang & Hannelore Griesenbrock
Michael & Christa Jenkins

Reba Norris
Michael & Christa Jenkins

Ed & Helen Leckrone
Dave & Jill Leckrone

Mike McCann, Ruth & Frank McCann,
Warren & Catherine Lightle
Matt McCann and Dottie McCann

Robert Edwards
Ann Edwards, Sue Mosier & Valerie Peart & Families

Gary & Mary Peart
Jamie, Valerie, Ruth & Luke Peart

Chip Jackson
The Schoeller Family

Paul & Grace Phillips, Larry & Jim Phillips,
William & Deloras Spatz
The Schoeller Family

Albert Baer Schoeller & Henning Schoeller
The Schoeller Family

Dan Snell, Harold & Petie Snell,
Norman & Hortense Jones
Carolyn Snell & Family

Husband, Bill Stidwell
Wife, Judy Stilwell

Mother, Betty Stone
Daughter, Judy Stilwell

A Christmas Eve Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson



*Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in
the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every
greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. **Amen***

Please join us for
Sunday Worship
December 28, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.
January 4, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

WORSHIP TEAM

Sound & Video Technicians

Brian Benedum

David Cover

Liturgist

Lorraine Terry

December Ushers

Matt McCann, Chair

Karen Summers

Michael & Christa Jenkins

Lay Leader

Henry Comer

December Hospitality

Matt McCann

CHURCH STAFF

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Tara Shoemaker

Director of Music & Organist

Jeff McConnaughey

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Nursery

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