



# Faith Global Methodist Church

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Pastor – Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Raptosh

Organist – Christine Hankins

Pianist – Holly Kwaczala

Hymn Leader – Bud Robinson

Social Media Coordinators – Lisa Popovich &

Sarah Raptosh

Video/Digital Production Assistants – Sam

Popovich

A/V Coordinator – Colton & Melissa Kalmar

Worship Leader- Bill Graham

Acolytes- Nick Popovich and Avery Biltz

Greeter- Robin Tarr

Ushers- Chip Glunt, John Glunt, Alan Tarr, Jim Earhart

Communion Stewards- Amy Boe and Penny Carroll

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## Christmas Eve Service Holy Communion & Candlelight Service December 24, 2023

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7:30 PM ~ Worship

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\* indicates the congregation may stand

PRELUDE

***Breath of Heaven***

Avery Biltz- Soloist

Words & Music by

Amy Grant and Chris Eaton

DARKNESS TO LIGHT

John 1:1-18

(NRSV) Pg. 91-92

FAITH GLOBAL METHODIST CHOIR

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would bear the Holy Child.

**People: He was born in Bethlehem then. We pray that he might be born again tonight in our hearts.**

Leader: The angels reassured the shepherds who were frightened by the brightness of God's glory.

**People: He directed them, just as he would direct us, to the gentle light shining from the manger.**

Leader: A choir of angels filled the night sky with hymns of praise for God's Christmas gift.

**People: We would join that song with thankful hearts. We would offer our best gifts to God's gracious Son.**

Leader: Let us worship the Christ Child!

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNION ELEMENTS

\*OPENING HYMN

***Angels We Have Heard on High***

(U.M. Hymnal) No. 238

(1) *Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.*

***Refrain*** *Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

(2) *Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*

**Refrain** *Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

(3) *Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*

**Refrain** *Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

(4) *See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.*

**Refrain** *Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

#### OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

**Holy God take us into that night long ago, and in our imaginations, let us marvel at the Holy Child, worship on bended knee, and sing with the angels. Let us behold the tender care of Mary and Joseph. Let us be blessed by the gaze of the Christ Child. Loving God, when we leave this place, may we leave like the shepherds, singing and praising God, for Christ is born again and again, born to set us free, born to give us hope, born to change the world. Let it happen again tonight. Amen.**

#### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Beech Family

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

(NRSV) Pg. 638

Leader: Will you join me in singing?

#### **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

(U.M. Hymnal) No.211

*(1) O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

**Refrain** *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

#### CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (The Congregation will sing the Lord's Prayer)

**Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

FAITH GLOBAL METHODIST CHOIR

**Christmas Sanctus**

Words & Music by Susan and Lee  
Dangle

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow**

(U.M. Hymnal) No. 95

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

(Offering plates will NOT be passed)

\*OFFERING PRAYER (In Unison)

**Receive these gifts with our prayers of praise and petition that the proclamation of the angels at Bethlehem will continue to be broadcast throughout the world. Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

(NRSV) Pg. 215

Leader: Will you join me in singing?

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

(U.M. Hymnal) No.234

*(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.*

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

(NRSV) Pg. 58

Pastor: Will you join me in singing?

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

(U.M. Hymnal) No.234

*(4) See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;*

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

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE

***The Gift That Keeps on Giving!***

\*RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)**

**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 life everlasting. Amen.**

\*GORIA PATRI

**Glory Be to the Father**

(U.M. Hymnal) No. 70

*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.*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

(U.M. Hymnal) No. 230

*(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.*

*(2) 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!*

*(3) 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.*

*(4) O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to 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.*

\*THE INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to our table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON (In Unison)

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: And so, with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Congregation will sing)

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel**

(U.M. Hymnal) No. 204

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

**Repeat**

Pastor: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ. We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living Sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pastor: On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, He took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said, "**This is my body which is broken for you, as often as you eat of it, do this in remembrance of me.**" After supper, He took the cup and blessed it and gave it to His disciples and said, "**This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins, as often as you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.**"

COMMUNION OF ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

(In the Pews)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING THE LIGHT

The ushers will come forward to receive the light from the Christ Candle.

Pass the light to the one next to you.

Remember to keep the lighted candle upright and remain seated while Dorelia Hankins sings "O Holy Night".

CLOSING HYMN

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

(U.M. Hymnal) No. 239

**(On the last line of each verse, raise your candles)**

*(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.*

*(2) 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!*

*(3) 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.*

*(4) 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.*

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Child born in Bethlehem,

**People: and who has returned to the heavens from where he came,**

Pastor: be your light in the midst of darkness,

**People: be your hope in times of despair,**

Pastor: and be your strength in times of trouble.

And all God's children said,

**All: Amen!**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

***Joy to The World***

(U.M. Hymnal) No. 246

*(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.*

*(4) 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.*

\*POSTLUDE