

First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Virtual Bulletin

Sunday, December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve

We come this day to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Savior of the world.

Welcome: Pastor, Wil Wilson

Prelude: "Ave Maria" Franz Schubert
Featuring: Alli Budka, trumpet; Edoardo Bellini, trumpet; Ray Ritchie, trumpet; and Lynne Beach, violin

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us all gather around to hear again the story we love,

People: The story of a baby born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Leader: It is the story of a man, the story of a God,

People: The story of a God who is with all of humanity.

Leader: Did you hear that? God didn't just create us and leave us on our own. God is not far off.

People: We celebrate today the miracle that God is with us as one of us.

Thanks be to Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel!

*Unison Prayer:

God of love, your love broke the boundary between the divine and the human so that you could truly be with us. Help us today to open our hearts to the gift you have given us, the gift of yourself. Help us to see you and to seek you in the ordinariness of our lives. Strengthen us with the knowledge that you have been here too. Help us to stand in compassion and solidarity with all those you came to save, with all the world, Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH #234
(v. 1-3, 6)

Lighting of the Advent wreath
The CHRIST candle

4:30 PM – The Pellichero/Temple Family

10:00 PM – The Budka Family

Hymn: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204
(Sung during Advent wreath lighting)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

*Hymn: "Away in a Manger" UMH #217

Second Reading: Luke 2:1-7
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

*Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" UMH #240

- Third Reading: Luke 2:8-20
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.
- *Hymn: "What Child Is This" UMH #219
- Fourth Reading: Matthew 2:1-12
The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.
- Sermon: "God with Us" Pastor Wil Wilson
- Invitation to the Offering:
*Our **Christmas Offering** will benefit Local Charities: Open Door, Habitat for Humanity, and the Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program*
- Offertory: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" African-American Spiritual
4:30 PM – Featuring Ken Budka
- "O Come, All Ye Faithful" J.F. Wade
10:00 PM – Featuring Alli Budka, Edoardo Bellini, and the FUMC Choir
- *Shining the Light of Christ**
To prevent the candles from dripping, please hold the lit candles vertically.
- *Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night" UMH #239
For those of you joining us from home, we will be holding a lit candle as we sing this hymn.
- *Benediction: Pastor Wil Wilson
- *Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World" UMH #246

Leading Us In Worship:

Wil Wilson, Pastor
Mitch Samu, Music Director

Liturgists:

4:30 PM

Melanie Bowen
Jane Healton

10:00 PM

Anita Ritchie
Cindy Curtis-Budka

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”:
(v. 1-3,6)

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 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;

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

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest;

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be
All glory given.
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

Advent Candle Lighting Hymn:
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called, Emmanuel.

“Away in a Manger”

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.

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 'til morning is nigh.

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.

“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 hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
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!”

“What Child Is This”

What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

“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!

“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.

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.

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.

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.