

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Virtual Bulletin**

*Saturday, December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve Family Service
4:30 p.m.*

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

Prelude

Welcome:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Call to Worship:

Leader: We gather to worship God, who became human in Jesus.

People: Thank you, God, for this amazing gift.

Leader: The Christ child came into the world to give us forgiveness, salvation, wholeness.

People: Thank you, God, for this amazing gift.

Leader: The Christmas story invites us to share what we've been given.

People: Thank you God, for your gifts of peace, hope, joy, and love!

All: Fill us with these gifts. Let us shine!

*Unison Prayer:

O Lord, our Advent journey has inspired us and transformed us. You have shown us how you create amazing things from the ordinary. Stir up within us your peace, hope, joy, and love so the world can be changed into something we can't even imagine. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

*Opening Hymn:

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

UMH #240

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath
The CHRIST Candle
The Heaton Family**

Hymn:

"The First Noel"
(Sung during Advent wreath lighting)

UMH #245

First Reading:

Luke 2:1-7
Jesus is born!

Jane Heaton

Christmas Story Time:

Jane Heaton

Second Reading:

Luke 2:8-20
Jesus and the Shepherds

(Video)

*Dancing with Pastor Yoseb

"Baby Jesus, We Love You"

Third Reading:

Matthew 2:1-12
Jesus and the Wise Men

Daniel Jeon

*Christmas Caroling with Ken Budka

Christmas Homily:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Invitation to the Offering:

Our Offering for Christmas Eve will be used to strengthen our new ministries that were discussed in our Listening Sessions for the new year, 2023.

Offertory:

“Let it Snow”
Chloe Jeon, Violin

arr. Lindsey Sterling

*Doxology:

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #95

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Thank you, God, for the precious gift of Jesus the Christ. Thank you for showing us all things are possible with you. With that knowledge, we thank you for the fruit that will come of the offerings we give to you now. We know that you will bless them, multiply them, and guide us in our using wisely all that we have. Thank you for your constant and unfailing love. In Jesus’ precious name. Amen.

***Let There Be Light**

Lighting of the Candles

Remember to take the light with the unlit candle.

To prevent the candles from dripping, please hold the lit candles vertically.

Pastor: Today, we celebrate the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

People: Our candles bear witness to that light, and brighten this time of celebration.

*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.

*Prayer for the World (In Unison)

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, you brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright and morning star, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

*Benediction:

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Closing Hymn:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

UMH 238

**Leading Us In Worship:
Rev. Yoseb Jeon
Mitch Samu, Music Director**

Opening Hymn:
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
UMH #240

(Verse 1)

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!”

(Verse 2)

Christ, by highest heaven adored;

Christ, the everlasting Lord;

Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead 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!”

(Verse 3)

Hail the heav'n-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!”

Hymn:
“The First Noel”
UMH #245

(Verse 1)

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

(Verse 2)

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

(Verse 3)

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

(Verse 4)

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

(Verse 5)

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in His presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Doxology”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #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.

“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!

Closing Hymn:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

UMH #238

(Verse 1)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo - - - - - ria,
In excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ria,
In excelsis Deo!

(Verse 2)

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo - - - - - ria,
In excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ria,
In excelsis Deo!

(Verse 3)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo - - - - - ria,
In excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ria,
In excelsis Deo!

(Verse 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.
Glo - - - - - ria,
In excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - - - ria,
In excelsis Deo!

Scripture Passages
Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Isaiah 9:2-7

(10 p.m. Only – Ray Ritchie)

² [a]The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation; [b]
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Luke 2:1-7

(4:30 p.m. – Jane Healton)

(10 p.m. – Ray Ritchie)

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the inn.^[a]

Luke 2:8-20

(4:30 – Video)

(10 p.m. – Anita Ritchie)

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[c]

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, **19** and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Matthew 2:1-12

(4:30 p.m. – Daniel Jeon)

(10 p.m. – Anita Ritchie)

The Visit of the Magi

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Wise Men^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising^[b] and have come to pay him homage.” **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. **5** They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd^[d] my people Israel.’ ”

7 Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men^[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” **9** When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,^[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped,^[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.