

First United Methodist Church of Freehold  
Virtual Bulletin

*Sunday, December 24, 2023  
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: All people are welcome here tonight.

**People: We have gathered to hear the story of Jesus' birth.**

Leader: All who walk in darkness,

**People: come see a great light.**

Leader: All who hope to see God,

**People: come see the glory of our savior, Jesus Christ.**

Leader: All who are simply waiting to see what's next,

**People: come see the good news God brings.**

Leader: Rejoice before God in the light and glory of this night.

**People: We rejoice that God's grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

\*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.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
The CHRIST Candle  
Joan & Greg Kinney**

\*Opening Hymn:

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
(v. 1, 2, 3, 6)

UMH #234

Reflection Video

Handbell Ringing:

Children's Ministry

Special Music Presentation:

Cello Solo, "**Danse Rustique**" (W. H. Squire)

Daniel Jeon

Violin Solo, "**Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas**" (Martin & Blane)

Chloe Jeon

"**O Holy Night**" (A. Adam)

Joan Kinney, Soloist; Mitch Samu, Piano

Christmas Caroling with Ken Budka:

"Mary, Mary"

Avery & Marsh

"The Crowded Stable"

Avery & Marsh

"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

TFWS #2098

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 Daniel Jeon

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

Second Reading: Luke 2:1-20 Will Hamson

\*Hymn: "Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child" Trad. African American

Third Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Chloe Jeon

### **Christmas Homily**

Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Invitation to the Offering: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offertory: "In the Bleak Midwinter"  
FUMC Choir Rosetti & Holst

\*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.**

\*Passing of the Peace

### **\*Let There Be Light Lighting of the Candles**

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.**

\*Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World" UMH #246

Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Going Forth: "Joy to the World"  
(Reprise) UMH #246

**Opening Hymn:  
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
UMH #234**

**Verse 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;  
**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**Verse 2**

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.**

**Verse 3**

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.**

**Verse 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:  
**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**Christmas Caroling with Ken Budka:**

**(#1)**

**"Mary, Mary"  
Avery & Marsh**

**Mary, Mary,**

**What you gonna name that baby?  
What you gonna call that holy baby?**

**Verse 1**

Slaves are we  
And looking for a master.  
Why don't you call Him Lord?  
Let's all call Him Lord.

**Mary, Mary,**

**What you gonna name that baby?  
What you gonna call that holy baby?**

**Verse 2**

We like our sheep  
Need someone to guide us.  
Why don't you call Him Shepherd?  
Let's all call Him Shepherd.

**Mary, Mary,**

**What you gonna name that baby?  
What you gonna call that holy baby?**

**Verse 3**

Hungry and poor,  
We need someone to save us.  
Why don't you call Him Savior?  
Let's all call Him Savior.

**Mary, Mary,**

**What you gonna name that baby?  
What you gonna call that holy baby?**

**Verse 4**

Kings of the world,  
We seek someone to rule us.  
Why don't you call Him King?  
Let's all call Him King.

**Mary, Mary,**

**What you gonna name that baby?  
What you gonna call that holy baby?**

**End**

**What you gonna call that holy baby?**

**(#2)**

**“The Crowded Stable”**

**Richard Avery & Donald Marsh**

**(Refrain)**

**Fayleez naveedahd! (Spanish)**

**Jwyyeu Noel! (French)**

**Ff’ra Hanasikukuu! (Swahili)**

**Shendon kwailow! (Taiwanese)**

**Hristos rajdayetsya! (Russian)**

**Fröhliche vainockten (German)**

**Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!**

**Jesus Christ is born!**

From far across the desert sands,  
From cold and snowy northern lands.  
Steaming jungles, city streets,  
In this stable here we meet.

**(Refrain)**

**Fayleez naveedahd! (Spanish)**

**Jwyyeu Noel! (French)**

**Ff’ra Hanasikukuu! (Swahili)**

**Shendon kwailow! (Taiwanese)**

**Hristos rajdayetsya! (Russian)**

**Fröhliche vainockten (German)**

**Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!**

**Jesus Christ is born!**

Just see the crowds: red, yellow, brown  
And black and white all gathered ‘round.  
Brought together by the star.  
From all nations here we are.

**Refrain:**

**Fayleez naveedahd! (Spanish)**

**Jwyyeu Noel! (French)**

**Ff’ra Hanasikukuu! (Swahili)**

**Shendon kwailow! (Taiwanese)**

**Hristos rajdayetsya! (Russian)**

**Fröhliche vainockten (German)**

**Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!**

**Jesus Christ is born!**

God brings us here to share this sight:  
A baby’s face, a holy light.  
Rage and fear and envy cease.  
Here we all find love and peace.

**Refrain:**

**Fayleez naveedahd! (Spanish)**

**Jwyyeu Noel! (French)**

**Ff’ra Hanasikukuu! (Swahili)**

**Shendon kwailow! (Taiwanese)**

**Hristos rajdayetsya! (Russian)**

**Fröhliche vainockten (German)**

**Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!**

**Jesus Christ is born!**

**Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!**

**Jesus Christ is born!**

**(#3)**

**“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”**

**TFWS #2098**

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
And they say that His name is Jesus.

**(Chorus)**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**Oh, yes! believer oh yes believer**

**He come from the glory**

**He come from the glorious kingdom**

The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
And they say that His name is Jesus.

**(Chorus)**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**He come from the glory,**

**He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**Oh, yes! believer oh yes believer**

**He come from the glory**

**He come from the glorious kingdom**

*(Continued)...*

The Shepherds came where the baby was born,  
The Shepherds came where the baby was born,  
The Shepherds came where the baby was born,  
And they say that His name is Jesus.

**(Chorus)**

**He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer oh yes believer  
He come from the glory  
He come from the glorious kingdom**

The wise men saw where the baby was born  
The wise men saw where the baby was born  
The wise men saw where the baby was born  
And they said that His name is Jesus.

**(Chorus)**

**He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer oh yes believer  
He come from the glory  
He come from the glorious kingdom**

**Hymn:  
“Away in a Manger”  
UMH #217**

**Verse 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.

**Verse 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 'til morning is nigh.

**Verse 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.

**Hymn:  
“Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child”  
Trad. African American**

Jesus, Jesus,  
Oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus,  
So holy, meek and mild;  
New life, new hope  
The child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing,  
“Glory, glory, glory,”  
Let the heavens ring.

**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.

**Let There Be Light: Lighting of the Candles:**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

**UMH 239**

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:**

**“Joy to the World”**

**UMH #246**

**Verse 1**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

**Verse 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.

**Verse 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.

**Verse 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.

## Scripture Passages

### **First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> <sup>[a]</sup> 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

### **Second Reading: Luke 2:1-20**

#### **The Birth of Jesus**

**2** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>[a]</sup>

## The Shepherds and the Angels

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>[b]</sup> praising God and saying,

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

<sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

## Third Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

### The Visit of the Magi

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

<sup>6</sup> ‘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<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men<sup>[e]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.