

First United Methodist Church of Freehold  
Virtual Bulletin

*Saturday, December 24, 2022*  
*Christmas Eve*  
*10:00 p.m.*

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

Prelude: "Oh, Holy Night" Adolphe Adam  
Chloe Jeon, Violin; Daniel Jeon, Cello; Yoonjung Jeon, Piano

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 Davala Family**

Hymn: "The First Noel" UMH #245  
(Sung during Advent wreath lighting)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 Ray Ritchie

\*Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH #230  
(v. 1, 4)

Second Reading: Luke 2:1-7 Ray Ritchie  
*Jesus is born!*

\*Hymn: "Joy to the World" UMH #246  
(v. 1, 2)

Third Reading: Luke 2:8-20 Anita Ritchie  
*Jesus and the Shepherds*

\*Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" UMH #251  
(v. 1, 2, 3)

Fourth Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Anita Ritchie  
*Jesus and the Wise Men*

\*Hymn: "We Three Kings" UMH #254  
(v. 1, 2, 3, 4)

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: "Celtic Blessing" From, Season of Joy

\*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.**

\*The Peace

Pastor: Hear the good news!

**People: The Savior is born!**

Pastor: Let us pass the peace of Christ with one another. The peace of Christ be with you always!

**People: And also with you.** (*Greet your neighbor with signs of peace*)

**\*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: Tonight, 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**

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**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.

**Hymn:**  
**"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**  
**UMH #230**  
**(v. 1, 4)**

(Verse 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.

(Verse 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!

**Hymn:**  
**"Joy to the World"**  
**UMH #246**  
**(v. 1, 2)**

(Verse 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.

(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.

**Hymn:**  
**"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**  
**UMH #251**  
**(v. 1, 2, 3)**

(Chorus)

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.

(Verse 1)

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.

(Verse 2)

The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed the Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.

(Verse 3)

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.

**Hymn:**  
**"We Three Kings"**  
**UMH #254**  
**(v. 1, 2, 3, 4)**

(Verse 1)

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

(Verse 2)

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

(Verse 3)

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising,  
Worshiping God on high.  
O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

(Verse 4)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

**Offertory:**  
**Celtic Blessing**  
**From, Season of Joy**

Now may the fragrance of His peace  
Soar through your heart like a dove released.  
Hide in His wings, O weary, distant soul.  
He'll guide your spirit home.

And may His love, poured from on high,  
Flow to the depths of your deepest sigh.  
Oh, come and drink from the only Living Stream,  
And on His shoulder lean.

(Ooo -----)

And may the Hope that will not deceive,  
Through every pain bring eternal ease.  
There is no night that can steal  
The promises His coming brings to us  
(Ooo ----- Ooo -----Ah-----)

So may His joy rush over you.  
Delight in the path He has called you to.  
May all your steps walk in heaven's endless light  
Beyond this Christmas night.

**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.

**Lighting of the Candles:  
"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!

## Isaiah 9:2-7

*(10 p.m. Only – Ray Ritchie)*

<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.

## **Luke 2:1-7**

*(4:30 p.m. – Jane Healton)*

*(10 p.m. – Ray Ritchie)*

### **The Birth of Jesus**

<sup>2</sup> 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>

## **Luke 2:8-20**

*(4:30 – Video)*

*(10 p.m. – Anita Ritchie)*

### **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.



## **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<sup>[a]</sup> 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<sup>[b]</sup> 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<sup>[c]</sup> 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<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.’ ”

**7** Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men<sup>[e]</sup> 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,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> 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.