

Christmas Eve

*Choir, Candlelight, and Communion
7:00 p.m. Worship Service*

We welcome and affirm those of every age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability into all aspects of the life of this congregation.



OPEN HEARTS
OPEN MINDS
OPEN DOORS

419 NE 1st Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601
(352) 372-8523 | contact@fumcgv.org



WORSHIP

WELCOME

Pastor Alan Taylor

PRELUDE

"What Child Shall Come?"

Jennifer Miller & Jessica Van Leer

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Robert Jackson and Tim Leslie

Dear God, it's now our turn to accept the Light, share it with others, and carry it forth from this place. Amen. So be it. Amen.

CAROL UMH 234 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 6) "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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.

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;

³ Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

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:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

CAROL

"I Wonder As I Wander"
arr. Patricia Cota Sanders

Handbell Ensemble

THE READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Dan and Kay Greathouse

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL UMH 230 (vs. 1, 2) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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 men on earth.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL UMH 240 (vs. 1, 3) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

¹ Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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 host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

³ 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 new born King!"

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20

CAROL UMH 245 (vs. 1, 2) "The First Noel"

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

"And It Came To Pass"

Pastor Alan Taylor

RECEIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Lully, Lulla"
arr. Carlton Young

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC

"O Holy Night"

Jessica Van Leer

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

(To light your candle, please turn your unlit candle into the lit one to avoid spilling melted wax.)

CAROL UMH 239

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

- 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!

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

CAROL

"Joy to the World"

- 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, and wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gavan Mcvey

(As you leave, please extinguish and deposit your candles in the baskets provided. Thank you.)

TONIGHT'S MUSICIANS

Lynn Sandefur-Gardner, piano
Gavan McVey, organ
Soloists: Jennifer Miller, Jessica Van Leer

Chancel Choir
Celebration Ringers
Michael Ekbladh, Director of Music Ministries





WELCOME!

FROM THE FIRST UMC FAITH FAMILY

**Our Mission is to Connect our Church with our Community
and our Community with Christ.**

As a community of faith that believes in
Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors,
we're so glad you're here and we hope you can join us again for worship!

Christmas Plus One

Sunday, December 26 at 10:30 a.m.

A special worship experience of sharing scripture, telling the stories
behind some of your favorite Christmas Carols, and then singing them!
(both on-campus and online)

Our regular worship services resume on Sunday, January 2, 2022.

Worship (both on-campus and online) begins at 10:30 a.m.
with the Sacrament of Holy Communion the first Sunday of every month.

Join us online at

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