



Christmas Eve Service

8:00 p.m.

Send us forth as pilgrims of light,
trusting that every step leads us deeper into Your love.
Through Christ our Companion. Amen.



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Wednesday, December 24, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve

Extended Prelude: Selections for String Quartet

Kelly Hsu and Gene Makely, violin
Rizwan Jagani, viola; Stephen Czarkowski, cello

Centering

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Centering Music: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Bells of Faith: Nancy Kuhn, Director
arr. P Wayne

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Call to Worship: (based on Isaiah 2:2-5)

Arvina Dalaya Gadre, Liturgist

ONE: In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;

ALL: all the nations shall stream to it.

ONE: Many peoples shall come and say,

**ALL: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."**

ONE: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

**ALL: He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;**

ONE: they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;

**ALL: nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

ONE: O house of Jacob, come,

ALL: let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Carol #234: <i>O Come All Ye Faithful</i> , verses 1, 2, 3, 6	Congregation Choir, String Quartet Ann Bartlow, organ
First Lesson: <i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>	Rev. John Campbell, Liturgist
*Carol #211: <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i> , verses 1-4, 7	Congregation, Choir String Quartet Ann Bartlow, organ
Second Lesson: <i>Matthew 1:1-17</i>	Jane Rall, Liturgist
*Carol #213: <i>Lift Up Your Heads You Mighty Gates</i>	Congregation, Choir String Quartet Ann Bartlow, organ
Third Lesson: <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	Joe Dowd, Liturgist
*Carol #216: <i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	Congregation, Choir String Quartet Ann Bartlow, organ
Fourth Lesson: <i>Luke 1:39-58</i>	Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell
*Carol: <i>Canticle of the Turning</i> (please refer to the insert)	Congregation, Choir String Quartet Ann Bartlow, organ
Reflection	Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell
Fifth Lesson: <i>Matthew 1:18-24</i>	Arvina Dalaya Gadre
*Carol #230 <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	Congregation, Choir String Quartet Ann Bartlow, organ
Sixth Lesson: <i>Luke 2:1-8</i>	Rev. John Campbell

*Carol #219: *What Child Is This*

Congregation, Choir
String Quartet
Ann Bartlow, organ

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

Jane Rall

Anthem: *Glory to God* (from *Messiah*, HWV 56, 1741)

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director
String Quartet, Ann Bartlow, organ
Georg Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

Eighth Lesson: Luke 2: 15-20

Joe Dowd

Anthem: *Shepherds Pipe Carol* (1967)

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director
John Rutter, b. 1945

Goin through the hills on a night all starry | On the way to Bethlehem, | Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping | On the way to Bethlehem, || (Refrain) Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: | 'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is | come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying | cradled there at Bethlehem.' || 'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily | On the way to Bethlehem, | Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely | On the way to Bethlehem,' || Refrain || 'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely | On the way to Bethlehem; | But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies | When I get to Bethlehem.' || Angels in the sky came down from on high, | Hovered over the manger where the babe was lying | cradled in the arms of his mother Mary, | Sleeping now at Bethlehem. || 'Where is this new King, shepherd boy, piping merrily, | Is he there at Bethlehem?' | 'I will find him soon by the star shining brightly | In the sky over Bethlehem.' || Refrain || 'May I come with you, shepherd boy, piping merrily, | Come with you to Bethlehem? | Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle, | Is it far from Bethlehem?' || Refrain

(based on John 1:1-14)

ONE: In the beginning was the Word,

ALL: and the Word was with God,

and the Word was God.

ONE: He was in the beginning with God.

ALL: All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

ONE: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

ALL: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

ONE: There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

ALL: He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

ONE: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

ALL: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.

ONE: He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

ALL: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Candle Lighting

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell & Ushers

The ushers will light the candle of the adult nearest the center aisle in each pew. As the light is passed, dip only the unlit candle into your neighbor's lighted one.

*Carol #239: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Congregation

Choir, String Quartet, Ann Bartlow, organ

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

*Carol #246: *Joy to the World*

Congregation, Choir

String Quartet; Ann Bartlow, organ

Postlude: *Selections by String Quartet*

String Quartet, Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director



Sunday, December 28

Let the joy of Christmas continue. Join us on December 28th at 10:00 a.m. for the *First Sunday after Christmas* service, with a reading from John 1:19-27. This scripture, about John the Baptist's testimony to a delegation from Jerusalem, focuses on his denial of being the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet, and instead identifies himself as a prophetic "voice" preparing the way for the Lord. He points to the unrecognized Jesus standing among them as the greater One he is unworthy to serve!



VISITORS



If you are new to Faith United Methodist Church, welcome! We encourage you to scan the QR code to let us know that you joined us today. If you would rather, you may complete a blue guest card that is available from a welcome host, then drop it in the offering chest.

OFFERING

We are not passing an offering plate at this time. An offering box has been placed on the welcome table in the Narthex. You may also scan the QR code to give online.



SERVING US TODAY

Acolyte: Hannah Coppersmith

Altar Guild for December: Nancy Kneisly

Audio Visual Volunteer: Eric Winchenbach, Debbie Spriggs, Connor Dowd

Liturgists: Arvina Dalaya Gadre, Jane Rall, Joe Dowd, John Campbell

Online Host: Mary Stark

Sermon Leader: Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Welcome Team Hosts: Bill & Lloydie Zaiser, Carol Henley

FAITH UMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor | Ann Bartlow, Organist | André Coleman, Tenor Section Leader | Keshika Dias, Facilities Manager | Valerie Kunzman, Office Administrator | Curtis Osborne, Coordinator of Intergenerational Nurture | Tessa Ricketts, Nursery Staff | Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator | Kim Webster, Finance Manager | Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director