

*Candlelight, Carols,
and Communion*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022
SANCTUARY
5:30 PM



WASHINGTON STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 24, 2022 | 5:30 pm

Candlelight, Carols & Communion

(As our worship begins, please silence any electronic devices.

Portable hearing devices are available in the Narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.)

PRELUDE

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #250

Once In Royal David's City

IRBY

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848 (Lk. 2:7)

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Eptings

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

This was going to be the year, God of silent nights, when we were going to give away more than we spent, but we didn't. This was going to be the season when we spent more time with others, but we filled our calendars with other things. Forgive us, Love Gifter, and draw us closer to the Baby born in Bethlehem, to the One who loves unconditionally and welcomes all; to the One who drew near to us, so we might be drawn to your heart. Help us receive and experience the Good News of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that you offer to us. Help us to accept responsibility to share these gifts generously in all the days to come. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON ANTHEM

The Prophecy of the Messiah
In the Bleak Midwinter

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
arr. Mack Wilberg

THE SECOND LESSON *HYMN #224

The Announcement to Mary
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Luke 1:26-38
IN DULCI JUBILO

Words: 14th cent. Latin; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1855
Music: German melody; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988

THE THIRD LESSON *HYMN #219

The Announcement to Joseph
What Child Is This

Matthew 1:18-25
GREENSLEEVES

Words: William C. Dix, 1865 (Lk. 2:6-20; Mt. 2:1-12)
Music: 16th cent. English Melody

THE FOURTH LESSON

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

*HYMN #217

Away in a Manger
Words: Anon. (Lk. 2:7)
Music: James R. Murray, 1887

AWAY IN A MANGER

THE FIFTH LESSON

The Announcement to the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-16

*HYMN #245

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

Words: Trad. English carol (Lk. 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)

Music: Trad. English carol; harm. from Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

THE SIXTH LESSON

The Magi Visit the Messiah

Matthew 2:1-11

*HYMN #246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Words: Issac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98:4-9)

Music: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

Adolphe

Soloist, Pato Aravena

(Giving is easy! Place your gift in the offering plate; text the word "CONNECTIONS" to the number 73256; donate through Realm Connect; visit us online at wsmethodist.org/giving; mail a check to WSUMC, 1401 Washington St., Columbia, SC 29201; or scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin.)

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

VENI, EMMANUEL

(To the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: "The Doxology," Thomas Ken, ca. 1674

Music: Traditional 15th cent. French, arranged and harmonized by Thomas Helmore, 1854

HOMILY

"Rejoice"

Rev. Becky Shirley

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the God of silent nights be with you!

May the God of herald angels be with you!

Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

Let us pray:

God of Love, as we gather this night to join with the voices around us,
singing praises to you, we boldly proclaim:

We will not be afraid, for great joy is ours this night;

we will look for the signs of your presence,

grace swaddled in hope,

love wrapped around broken hearts.

Glory to you, God in the highest heavens!

May peace fill the lives of all your children!

On this night, when we sing of the baby in the manger,
as the shadow of the cross is cast by the stars,
we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:

**Christ is our light,
and we will join the angels in singing the good news;
Christ is our life,
and we will join the disciples in telling the Story;
Christ is our promise,
and we wait for the joy of his return.**

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

HYMN 239

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young; st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)

Music: Franz Gruber, 1818

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

**Congregation standing. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue your participation.*

When our worship ends, our service begins!

Please join us tomorrow at 11:00 am for a special Christmas Day service of worship. Casual dress.
Children are invited to bring a special toy to the service to receive a blessing of the toys.

On Sunday, Jan. 1, Jim Tuelle will lead us in a special class on Christmas carols in Christ Chapel from 9:45-10:45 am. Then stay and enjoy our 11:00 am worship service. All are welcome!

Merry Christmas

FROM THE PASTORS AND STAFF OF WASHINGTON STREET UMC!

THE WSUMC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DEC. 26,
FRIDAY, DEC. 30, AND MONDAY, JAN. 2

THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, DEC. 26 THROUGH FRIDAY, DEC. 30.