



Carols, Candlelight & Communion
Christmas Eve Service
featuring the Washington Street Sanctuary Choir

December 24, 2023 | 5:00 pm
Sanctuary & Livestream

with a special presentation by the WSUMC Players

"Three Stops to Freedom: The Christmas Spirit(uals)"

with musical assistance from Elizabeth & Mike Cameron, Brianna Grant,
Janet Hopkins, and Emmi Lee

WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 24, 2023 | 5:00 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 *This Day, So Joyous for All Creatures* J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *Carol of the Bells* Willhousky

*HYMN #220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

CHRISTMAS SKIT "Three Stops to Freedom: The Christmas Spirit(uals)"
*Presented by the Washington Street Players with musical assistance from
Elizabeth & Mike Cameron, Brianna Grant, Janet Hopkins & Emmie-Elizabeth Lee*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: God of silent nights, this was going to be the year 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 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. Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ taught us to pray:

All: 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 *The Birth of Jesus* Luke 2:1-7

*HYMN #219 *What Child is This* GREENSLEEVES

THE SECOND LESSON *The Announcement to the Shepherds* Luke 2:8-16

HYMN #238 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

THE THIRD LESSON

The Magi Visit the Messiah

Matthew 2:1-11

*HYMN#246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night
Soloist: Michelle Graham

Adolf Adams

DOXOLOGY

THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, noel, noel, noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

HOMILY

“Deck the Halls for Christ”

Rev. Becky Shirley

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Singing responsively) (Tune of *Away in a Manger*)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Now let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: How good it is to give thanks and praise!

Leader: Almighty God Creator of Heaven...we praise your name and join the everlasting song.

(All Singing) (Tune of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*):

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might adored,

Heaven and earth are shining bright with the glory of your light.

Loud hosannas now we sing! In the highest may they ring!

Blessed is the Coming One, Christ, Emmanuel, your Son.

Glory in the highest! Holy God, your name be blessed!

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is.....as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All Singing) (Tune of *We Three Kings*):

Dying Christ destroyed our death.

Rising Christ restores our life.

Christ will come again in glory, raising us all to life.

Oh—God of power, God of might, God of love, our heart's delight:

Feed us, guide us, walk beside us, bless us with your holy light.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

(All Singing) (Tune of *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*):

God our Father, Christ our Brother, Spirit in these gifts you vow:

By your giving, in our living, we become your Body now.

Bread is broken, light revealing; Word is spoken for our healing.

Make us all your Body now. Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION ANTHEMS

This Child, This King

David Ray

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and
princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the
nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart. (Howard Thurman)

THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT

*HYMN #239

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

J.S. Bach

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

When our worship ends, our service begins!