



*The order of service is subject to change at the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Italicized Bold print invites congregational response in unison.

*Means you are **invited to stand** if able and comfortable.

Large print hymnals, large print bulletins, service script, pew cushions, and Listening Assistance Devices are available at the entry of the Sanctuary.

You're encouraged to check-in at NMUMC on Facebook & share our zoom recorded service.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Harlan Otter

Words to Ponder:

On this holy night, we meet a great mystery.
In the quiet of a stable, we hear the cry of a newborn child. In the stillness of a field, we see the glory of God.
Come and find the mystery of love.

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The O'Rourke Family at 9:30a

The Kolitz Family at 7p

Chancel Choir at 9:30a

Introit

"He is Born"

arr. Carlton R. Young

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

by John Mason Neale

Bell Choir at 7p

Rosaura Frias 9:30a/Patty Dayton 7p

***Call to Worship**

The night was dark.

A baby lay in a manger.

The night was still.

Angels sang to shepherds.

The night was expectant.

God's glory shone brightly.

On this night,

let us rejoice in the gift of love.

***Opening Prayer**

Loving God, this is a holy night.

We come longing to hear your story of new life and hope.

Speak your words of truth and power.

May the gift of your love be born anew among us.

Cast out our fears, that we may rejoice in your power and your goodness. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

"O Come All Ye Faithful" (v1,2&4)

UMH#234

***Passing of the Peace Of Christ**

Pastor Ed

Children's Message (930a only)

Pastor Ed

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Rosaura Frias 9:30a/Patty Dayton 7p

We often come to Christmas longing for a cozy story of a baby born in a manger.

But this baby will change the world.

He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

Something strong and powerful began with that infant.

He brings justice and righteousness for all the world.

Enlarge our minds, increase our vision, and strengthen our commitment,

that we too may work for justice and righteousness.

Help us walk faithfully with him, and lead us on your paths of peace. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Ed

Hymn of Response

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (v1,2&4)

UMH#238

Prayer of Illumination (in unison)

Rosaura Frias 9:30a/Patty Dayton 7p

God of light, you have revealed your very self to us in your son Jesus Christ, your one Word made flesh, who lived among us, full of grace and truth.

Open us to your revelation once again, that in the words of your holy scripture we might know your presence and follow in your light always. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Rosaura Frias 9:30a/Patty Dayton 7p

²_a 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.

³ You have multiplied exultation;_b

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Great will be his authority,_c

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.

(Interlude)

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1-14

Rosaura Frias 9:30a/Patty Dayton 7p

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was

the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** 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. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** 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 guest room.^[a]

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** 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: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[b] the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[c] praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[d]

Reflecting on God’s Message “But Mommy is There Really a Santa Claus?” Pastor Ed

Prayers of the People

Invitation of the Offering Pastor Ed

Offertory Anthem "Alleluia, He is Coming" Chancel Choir 9:30a
by Gloria Shayne

"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" Chancel Choir 7p
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

***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

Offering Prayer Pastor Ed

Holy God, we are grateful for the incredible gift born in a stable in Bethlehem. The love and joy birthed by Jesus has touched and transformed our lives. We bring our gifts to you this night. We bring our gifts of money to continue your mission of peace. We bring our hearts, as we adore you and long to follow Jesus. Amen.

COMMUNION

Communion Anthem "One Bread, One Body" UMH#620

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Sending Hymn** "Silent Night" UMH#239

Recess with Candles Lit While Singing (7p only)



*Valente, Liz. Manger, from Art in the Christian Tradition

Christmas Eve

12.24.2023 | 9:30 am & 7:00 pm

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.