



# CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 ROWE BOULEVARD – ANNAPOLIS, MD – WWW.CALUMC.ORG

DECEMBER 24, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.

## *Christmas Eve*

### GATHERING

#### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

*Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*

*Greensleeves*

*What Child Is This* (arr. Faber)

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* (arr. Bergerac)

Betsy Lord, *organist*

J.S. Bach

Richard Purvis

Linda Flaherty, *piano*

Charlotte Longabaugh, *piano*

#### THE GREETING

Rev. Linda W. Motter, *Pastor*

### PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Eldridge, *liturgist*

**Leader:** Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

**People:** **This is the night of Jesus' birth!**

Good news of great joy!

**In Jesus, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

**All:** **Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

UMH 234 vs. 1,3,6

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#### \*CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

**Holy Living God, you are our Light. Let this light grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Presence of Light to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. In the blessed name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM

Mark Burrows

*Room in My Heart*

Melissa Flaherty, *Children's Choir Director*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Christmas Gospel Reading		Luke 2:1-7
Carol	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	UMH 217 vs. 1
Second Christmas Gospel Reading		Luke 2:8-12
Carol	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	UMH 238 vs. 1
Third Christmas Gospel Reading		Luke 2:13-15
Carol	<i>The First Noel</i>	UMH 245 vs. 1
Fourth Christmas Gospel Reading		Luke 2:16-20
Carol	<i>Go, Tell It On the Mountain</i>	UMH 251 vs. 1-3

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*The Christmas Mouse*

Mark Burrows

Joe Gryder, Kathryn Longabaugh, Linda Flaherty, Wes Motter, *puppeteers*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Nancy Mills & Rev. Linda Motter

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER *with* THE 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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*All are invited to give of their morning offerings online at CALUMC.org, in the collection black box in the Narthex, Venmo ( @calvaryumcannapolis ) or US Postal Service to support the work of Calvary United Methodist Church sharing God's love with the world.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving and gracious God, whom angels worship in thanksgiving for your Son, bless these gifts we offer that they may bring light to the darkened corners of our world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

\*HYMN

UMH 221, vs 4

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

John & Majewski Family

Jamie, Tim, Carter, & Mackenzie John, and Kyle, Tyler, and MJ Majewski

Reader: We have unwrapped a present on each Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gifts that God reveals.

**People: We open our hearts as we open the gifts!**

Reader: The gift of **hope** is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word.

The gift of Christ's **peace** reminds us that we can have peace even in the midst of non-peaceful situations.

The gift of **joy** is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep call to delight in the small things.

The gift of **love** is the call to us as Jesus' disciples. The more love we put into the world, the better the world will be.

And tonight, we celebrate the presence of the **Light** among us.

Pastor: Good News! Sing for great joy! The Lord, our Redeemer, has come!  
What joyous news to proclaim! Today, Christ is born!

**People: We welcome God into our hearts as our Lord and Savior.**

Pastor: Let all the world see His light and take it to the ends of the world.

*- adapted from Worship Design Studio*

*As the Light of Christ is passed, receive the light by tipping your unlit candle to meet your neighbor's upright lit candle. To activate children's glowsticks, bend the middle and shake.*

\*CAROL

UMH 239

*Silent Night*

*Following the singing of Silent Night, the Pastor will invite all to cup a hand  
around the flame before extinguishing.*

## SENDING FORTH

\*CLOSING CAROL

UMH 246

*Joy to the World*

\*CHRISTMAS BLESSING & BENEDICTION

**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.** (Numbers 6:24-26)

POSTLUDE

*Carol of the Field and Plain*

arr. Robert J. Hughes

*\* Indicates please stand as able in body or spirit.*