



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

DECEMBER 24, 2023 – 9:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Collection of Christmas Carols

Marcus Flores & Daniel Arute, *trumpets*

Christopher Phelps, *french horn*

Lena Piazza-Leman, *trombone*

Aden Beery, *tuba*

WELCOME

Rev. Linda W. Motter, *Pastor*

CHORAL INVOCATION

The Sussex Carol

Calvary Choir & Brass Quintet

René Clausen

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Bob Ireland, *liturgist*

Liturgist: Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.

People: **Unto us a child is born. Alleluia!**

Tonight, the angels sing on earth.

All: **Unto us a child is born, a Savior, Christ the Lord!**

Glory to God in the highest!

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234 vs. 1-3 & 6

arr. David Willcocks

*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.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Christmas Gospel Reading		Luke 2:1-7
*Carol	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	UMH 230 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>What Child is This</i>	UMH 219 vs. 1
Fourth Christmas Gospel Reading		Luke 2:16-20

ANTHEM

Nativity Carol

Calvary Choir

John Rutter

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Gift of Presence with Light

Rev. Linda W. Motter, *Pastor*

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.**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

*HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH 221, vs. 4

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Frantzich Family

Steve, Jane, Andrew, Tyler, & Connor

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 new 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.

*HYMN

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

arr. Robert A. Hobby

*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

Betsy Lord, *organist*

arr. Robert J. Hughes

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