



*Lake Toxarway United Methodist Church*  
*Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 2021*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Christmas Eve, December 24th**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S\\_Cfg1sWCg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg)

**RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.***

**PRELUDE**

I Wonder as I Wander      arr. Douglas E. Wagner

**GREETING**

*We count it in mere hours now,  
Soon the first pains of labor will be felt.  
**Soon the Light will shine in the darkness,  
soon the baby will be born.**  
Soon God will once again break into our lives,  
**coming in a way that is expected yet unusual,  
challenging our expectations  
and calling us to see life differently.***

**HYMN #234**

O Come All Ye Faithful (Stanzas 1-4)

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**Lighting the Christ Candle (Dodson Family)**

**Reader One:** *This night, this night is a night to remember. A night when home broke in on us. A night when we were not forgotten or alone or abandoned. This night. This night is the night when here and there became one, when past and future combined in a breathless present. This is a night when we are home, in ourselves, in this family, in the God who loved us enough to walk beside us.*

**Reader Two:** *We gather in the night to proclaim the light. We shrug off despair and embrace hope. We set aside conflict and choose peace. We push away despair by claiming joy. We overcome hate by rising into love. Because this night we know, even in the shadows of our doubts, we know that we are loved. That's what it means to be home.*

**Reader Three:** *We light these candles, hoping to become the light, hoping to radiate light by how we live. We light these candles to create a space called home in this place, in our place, in inner places. We light these candles to declare that unto us a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. Welcomed home by angels singing and shepherds*

*kneeling. Welcomed home by those like us who have worshiped for thousands of years. Welcomed home again tonight, right here, right now, in us.*

**Reader Four:** *It's time to be home.*

*(Light the Christ Candle and all candles of the wreath.)*

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Please be seated)*

***God of birth, God of light,  
in this time of song and prayer and silence,  
reawaken in us the awe of Christmas.  
As we hear again the story of a young woman and a surprising visitor,  
remind us that we are called to respond to you in unexpected ways.  
And when we leave this place,  
may we be willing to sing praises  
for a young woman who said YES  
and the birth that we prepare to celebrate.  
We pray in the name of the child  
who even now is starting to push from the womb,  
who would later teach his friends to pray, saying:***

**THE LORD'S PRAYER #895**

**HYMN#229**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

- 9:2 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.
- 9:3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- 9:4 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.
- 9:5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 9:6 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.
- 9:7 His authority shall grow continually, 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.

**Psalm 96 (Please read the bold text)**

- 96:1 O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.**  
96:2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
- 96:3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.**  
96:4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.
- 96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.**  
96:6 Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- 96:7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**  
96:8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.
- 96:9 Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.**  
96:10 Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."
- 96:11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;**  
96:12 let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- 96:13 before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.**

**Titus 2:11-14**

- 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
2:12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
2:14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**Luke 2:1-14, (15-20) (Please stand for the Gospel)**

- 2:1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2:2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 2:3 All went to their own towns to be registered.
- 2:4 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.
- 2:5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- 2:6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- 2:7 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 for them in the inn.
- 2:8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 2:9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- 2:10 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:
- 2:11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- 2:12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."
- 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
- 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
- 2:15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."
- 2:16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
- 2:17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
- 2:18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
- 2:19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
- 2:20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.*

***P: Thanks be to God.***

**SOLO**

**HOMILY**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 (*United Church of Canada*)**

**We are not alone; we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION #230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.***

***(Let us offer our silent confessions.)***

***Lord, we are so excited. Christmas Eve is here. We are impatient to hear the whole story. Slow us down again, Lord. As we hear Mary say "Yes!" to God's good news, help us to remember that God continually calls us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*God's love and faithfulness have been at work in you. You are healed and forgiven. Rejoice in God's love. AMEN.*

***In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.***

## **SOLO**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND HYMN #239**

Silent Night (all verses)

***(Candles will be lit at this time. The ushers will bring the light to you. Please keep burning wicks upright. Tip only the unlighted candles. Enjoy the symbolism and bask in the glow of candlelight, but please be careful and respectful of the church's furnishings.)***

## **WITNESS TO THE LIGHT**

*Loving God,  
help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.  
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven in the light of the Star of Bethlehem and its Good News to All!*

## **CLOSING HYMN #246**

Joy to the World

Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

## **BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE (Please be seated for the postlude & extinguish your candle)***

Silent Night      arr. Ted Smith

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Welcome to this service of candlelight on this holy night.***

*Whether small or large in number, we believe that God in Christ is the focus of our worship. Please use the time prior to the start of the service to reflect quietly.*

***We welcome several guest musicians tonight:***

*Patti Black on the piano. She is married to our organist Charlie Steele. We also welcome Jennie and Sara Moser. Both ladies have worshipped with us many times. We are thankful for the gifts these musicians bring to our worship tonight.*

***Flowers on the Altar***

*Flowers on the altar are given by Barb & Jerry Kline and Marcus & Kim Dodson & family in loving memory of Ruth Cech.*

***LTUMC Tornado Relief***

*Due to the generous giving of our congregation throughout 2021, LTUMC has met our aggressive budget of Outreach Giving of \$155,000. As in recent years, our focus has been on local outreach partners in the area and our scholarship program. The tornadoes that ravaged our neighbors to the west have left a humanitarian disaster in their path. This week LTUMC has issued a check for \$15,000 to UMCOR, The United Methodist Church's disaster relief organization, specifically targeted for our neighbor's tornado relief. Thank you for your generosity which has enabled us to respond in such a time of need.*

## **STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

Organist: Charlie Steele: [cwsorgan@comporium.net](mailto:cwsorgan@comporium.net)

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org)

Lay Leaders: Barbara Kline: 828-862-5585 and Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill

Liturgist: Tom Blackstock



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## O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O  
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -*  
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O  
 \* 4. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra - dle,

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.  
*ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.*  
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!  
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
*Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.*  
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;  
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

*Refrain*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,  
*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.  
*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.*

# Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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*Unison*

1. In-fant ho - ly, in-fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle  
 2. Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing

stall; ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing, Christ the babe is Lord of  
 new saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid-ings of a gos-pel

all. Swift are wing-ing an-gels sing-ing, no-els ring-ing, tid-ings  
 true. Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the

*Interlude, Ending*

bring-ing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 mor-row: Christ the babe was born for you.

WORDS: Polish carol; trans. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1925 (Lk. 2:6-20)

MUSIC: Polish carol; arr. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1926; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964

W ZLOBIE LEZY  
 447.447.44447

Harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press

## 230 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;  
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given;  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868  
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS  
 86.86.76.86

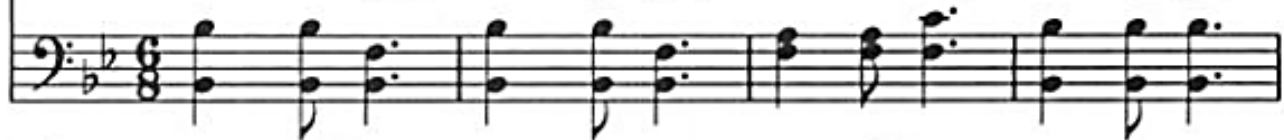
Alt. tune: FOREST GREEN

# Silent Night, Holy Night

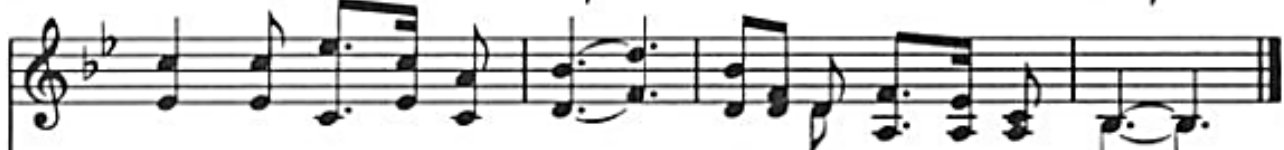
239



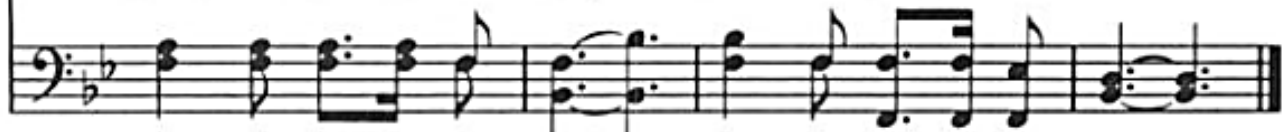
1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;



round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
*nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - i - gem Haar,*  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;



sleep in heav - en - ly peace,	sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
<i>schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh,</i>	<i>schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.</i>
Christ the Sav - ior is born,	Christ the Sav - ior is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth,	Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
Christ the Sav - ior is born,	Christ the Sav - ior is born!



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

STILLE NACHT

Irr.

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,

Let earth re - ceive her King; let  
 Let all their songs em - ploy; while  
 nor thorns in - fest the ground; he  
 and makes the na - tions prove the

ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

WORDS: Issac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98:4-9)  
 MUSIC: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH  
 CM with Repeat



BIRTH AND BAPTISM

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 far as the curse is found, far -  
 and won - ders of his love, and

and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his

heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 as the curse is found, far -  
 won - ders of his love, and

sing,  
 joy,  
 found,  
 love,

and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his

heaven, and heaven, and na - ture sing.  
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 as, far as the curse is found.  
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing,  
 joy,  
 found,  
 love,