



**Christmas Eve  
Holy Communion  
December 24, 2024**

**UMC in Wayne**

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Join us on Zoom: [Meeting ID: 823 9591 4126 Passcode: 092827](https://umcwayne.org/join)

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## INTROIT

*We Would Worship Thee*

## CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: The journey of life requires the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love shining out into the world.

**All: On our way to Bethlehem, we search for the star that lights the path.**

Leader: The road can be difficult, and the search for home can be elusive.

**All: We are a people who look for Good News for all people.**

Leader: There are milestones—signs and markers—that can guide us to a better day.

**All: God's light goes before us, we are not alone.**

*Light the Christ Candle*

## HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* Vs. 1-3

UMH #234

## OPENING PRAYER

**O wonderful God, we come tonight with breathless wonder, to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, and we are in awe.**

**You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch our hearts and minds and souls – that we may never tire of this story, or take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

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. 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. Great will be his authority, 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.

## HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

UMH #250

## **THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD *Luke 2: 1-7***

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

### **HYMN**

*Away In a Manger*

*UMH #217*

## **THE GREATEST STORY CONTINUES *Luke 2: 8-20***

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*The Friendly Beasts*

*Jubilation Ringers*

When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

### **MESSAGE**

*Born in a Manger*

*Pastor Ninabeth*

**GUIDED BY PRAYER**

Blessed God, we praise you on this holy night for the mystery of your Incarnation. We bless you for the birth of Jesus, and for the gift of your grace. We thank you that you dwell with us in love.

In the name of the infant Jesus we pray for all children, and their families. We pray for peace. We pray for those for whom Christ came: those who suffer, those who are lost or lonely, and those who do not know you. We pray for the sick, the powerless and the rejected, those who struggle in life, and all who are oppressed. Blessed are the poor, and those who mourn. Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are those who are persecuted: for among them is Emmanuel.

Holy Spirit, make of our hearts an open manger, that Christ may be born in us anew and live in us always. By your grace help us to receive the gifts of this holy season, to share them with all the world, and to live always in the light of Jesus' presence. Amen

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE****CALL TO RECONCILIATION****UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**It's Christmas Eve again, God. We're barely ready for it.**

**In the midst of the busyness, we sometimes miss what it is all about—  
you coming to earth—Emmanuel—God-with-us.**

**Help us hear anew your promises of hope and salvation and love.**

**Forgive us for forgetting the magic of this night, for focusing on ourselves  
and what we need to do instead of on the miracle of Jesus' birth.**

**Rock us out of our complacency. Let us hear angel voices and ponder in our  
hearts what all this means for the world and for us.**

*Silence is kept*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's love knows no bounds. Love comes down at Christmas— a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Know that this love is come for you— to touch you, to heal you, to forgive you, to make you whole.

**OFFERING OUR GRATITUDE  
OFFERTORY**

*Doxology*

*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.  
Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Joy to the world, the Lord has come! We celebrate with profound joy the birth of your son and our Savior, Jesus the Christ. We gratefully offer these gifts, knowing that you have already given us the greatest gift that we will ever receive. We pray in the name of the One who is that gift – the Babe born in a manger! Amen,

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**COMMUNION SETTING** *please see Communion Setting in Pews*

*Our ushers will invite you to come forward to receive the sacrament. Please let the ushers know if you prefer Pastor Ninabeth to serve you in your seat.*

Pastor Ninabeth: The Lord be with you

**All: And also, with you**

Pastor Ninabeth: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor Ninabeth: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**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.**

**GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**SONG DURING COMMUNION**

*Christ Is Born*

*Cathy Nalesnik*

## **THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

~ John 1:14

## **RECEIVING AND SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

We have checked the signs and markers to make sure we are moving in a faithful direction. We have arrived at Bethlehem, knowing that the Light of Christ has come to shine in our deepest night. We are not alone. Receive the light that comes to you: it comes from the Christ candle, but it reaches you only through your neighbors. Receive the light from a brother or sister in Christ.

Hold the light, enjoy the light, and be thankful.

## **SILENT NIGHT**

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth! Jesus Lord, at thy birth!**

**Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
"Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born."**

## BLESSING FOR THE JOURNEY

## POSTLUDE

*We are grateful for Eddie Easse for blessing us with his musical talent!*

***Thank you for financially supporting our ministry.***

***We offer many ways to give:***

*In the sanctuary or by mail.*

Online at [www.umcwayne.org](http://www.umcwayne.org)

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/umcwgiving>

Text "GIVING" to 973-447-3223

QR Code:



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10am our journey continues as  
the Children show us the way to Persia: A Place of Return**

On this last day of our series, we ask ourselves, "What are we seeking?

Where is our attention focused? What new stars may be calling to us?

Will we just go back into routines of life or will we take this moment to understand  
more deeply how we can 'return anew?'"

**Our office will be closed this week.**

If you need assistance, please call Pastor Ninabeth at 908-391-2561.



***“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*





**To Brighten our Sanctuary at Christmas!**

**In Honor of our Grandsons, Sean & Aidan**

**In Memory of our parents Jim & Dot Creamer and Paul & Dottie Atherton  
Don & Marilyn Creamer – 4**

**In Honor of my 14 nieces. In Honor of Michael, Robert and Debra Devos**

John & Dianne DeVos – 2

**In Honor of our Sons, Hunter, Logan and Chase**

Nicole and Shane Force -3

**In Memory of Esther Fredericks-Domes,**

**Joseph Fredericks, & Henry Domes**

Jan Fredericks - 1

**In Memory of Charles Mougalian, David B. Ingerman and Our Parents**

Lois Mougalian – 3

**In Memory of Charles G. Mougalian, beloved Bapa and Father**

**In Memory of David B. Ingerman, beloved Husband and Father**

Lori, Alex and Dylan Ingerman -2

**In Memory of Loved Ones**

Robert & Nancy Kinch – 2

**In Memory of Jesse Krum**

**In Memory of Etta & John Smith**

Margaret Krum – 2

**In Memory of Charlie Lehner**

Barbara Lehner – 1

**In Memory of Our Loved Ones and Mom**

Liz Slevin-2



**In Memory of Loved Ones**

Janet Melone – 1

**In Memory and Honor of Family and Friends**

Jennifer Schiffrin-4

**In Memory of Santos and Dorothea Penin**

**In Memory of Gladys Jacobus**

Linda M. Penin – 2

**In Memory of our Granny - Evelyn Stephens and Nancy Wagner**

The Flores Family – 1

**In Memory of Our Parents and Beloved Sister in- Law, Jane**

Joe & Liz Tible – 1

**In Honor of The Monroe Family**

**In Memory of Mackenzie Jennings**

Bruce and Dawn Monroe-2

**In Memory of our Loved Ones**

Paul and Gail Papadopoulos-1

**In Memory of Jane and Wayne Shortman and Ralph and Millie Jackson**

Richard Jackson-2

**In Memory of Our Parents, Grandparents and Aunt**

Pastor Ninabeth and Family-2

**In Honor of Our Parents and Dear Friends**

**In Memory of Family and Friends**

Paul Jenny and Linda Faulkner- 2



### **THE LEGEND AND SYMBOLISM OF THE POINSETTA**

How the poinsettia and Christmas became linked centers around a bit of Mexican folklore involving a poor girl named Pepita. In the legend, Pepita had no present to offer baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve service. As she walked to church, she noticed weeds growing alongside the road. She gathered a bouquet of weeds (some accounts say she did this at the urging of an angel). When Pepita laid her bouquet at the feet of the Christ Child, the weeds burst into bright red flowers. From that night on, the poinsettia was known as “Flores de Noche Buena,” or “Flowers of the Holy Night.”

Symbolically, we have Jesus’ life story in one plant. The leaves symbolize the star that led the Wise Men to the newborn Jesus, the red leaves are a reminder of the blood of Christ shed during His crucifixion and the white leaves represent Christ’s purity.



Our Christmas poinsettias are given to the glory of God!  
You are welcome to take your poinsettia home with you at the conclusion  
of the 7pm Christmas Eve Service.

**UMC Wayne Ministers**

All the members of UMC in Wayne

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