

A Service of Word and Table

# *Christmas Eve*



*Manning United Methodist Church*

2024



Welcome! Tonight, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!  
To our guests: we are grateful that you are here to worship with us.

### **The Offering**

The gifts we offer to God tonight will support United Ministries of Clarendon County as part of our Souper Bowl of Caring program. The gift will be made to United Ministries on January 15<sup>th</sup> of 2025 and will be matched by a grant. If you would prefer for your gift to support the work of this congregation, please mark your envelope “general fund.”

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

This is the meal of grace that Jesus Christ has given to all of us. You do not have to be a member of this congregation in order to participate. We will receive by intinction, dipping the broken bread into the cup. If you are uncomfortable with dipping into a common cup, you may eat the bread without dipping. The whole Christ is present in both the bread and the cup.

### **Reading the Liturgy**

The words in bold face type will be read by all. Please keep your bulletin at hand as we will use it often. The back of the bulletin contains Luke’s story of Jesus’ birth for you to read with your family on Christmas morning.

### **Restrooms**

To reach the restroom use either of the doors at the front of the sanctuary and proceed toward the back of the building. The restroom is off of the first room on the left.

### **Lighting of Candles**

After you receive Communion, you will be provided with a candle to light from the Christ Candle. Gently extinguish your candle after the dismissal and allow it to cool for a few moments before you tilt it. A receptacle will be outside on the front porch for you to discard your candle as you leave.

### **Nursery:**

A nursery is not available tonight. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please know that we are glad your child is here, and we are not offended by any noise he or she may make. Activity bags are available in the foyer should your child like to use one.

## ENTRANCE

Call to Worship                    "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

### + Greeting

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Praise be to God!**

### + Opening Prayer

**O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this night and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Recalling Advent

On the First Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. **May the light sent from God shine in the darkness.**

On the Second Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle as a symbol of Christ the Way. **May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation.**

On the Third Sunday of Advent we lit a candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy. **May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.**

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. **May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.**

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

(From *The Gospel According to John*, chapter 1, NRSV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **He was in the beginning with God.**

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. **What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into 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.**

We light the Christ Candle celebrating the birth of the One who is Emmanuel, God with us! We light the Christ Candle celebrating the One who is Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace! **Amen!**

Song "Away in a Manger"

+ Hymn "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Hymnal 240

### PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "O Holy Night"

Chancel Choir

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor David

+ Affirmation of Faith

“The Nicene Creed”

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Offering

Doxology

**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.**

Song

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## Confession and Pardon

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and to give us life; and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving for Christmas Eve

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained

steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

And now with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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.**

### Breaking the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

### Giving the Bread and Cup

### Prayer

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

+ Hymn

*Silent Night, Holy 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!

+ Dismissal with Blessing

+ Indicates those times that we stand as we are able.

**Worship Leaders:**

Soloists: .....Kenna & Ansley  
Crucifer:..... Sullivan  
Acolyte: .....Aurora  
Christ Candle: .....The Murphy Family  
Lector: ..... Kass Varn  
Duet:..... Buck Sprott and Hannah Sprott Rivers  
Assisting Minister:..... Charlie Gavin  
Worship Assistants:..... Riley and Hunter

**Church Information:**

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We operate under an abuse prevention policy designed to help us protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults from harm.

**To Join:** feel free to speak with or contact the pastor should you wish to join with this congregation of Christ’s Church or have any other need.

**Online Giving:** You may make your offering with a credit card via [manningumc.com](http://manningumc.com) or by aiming your smartphone camera at this QR Code:

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## The Birth of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.