

Order of Worship

Christmas Eve

7:00PM

December 24, 2023

The liturgical color is white, receiving the gift of God in His Son.

*We lift up prayers for the nation, our community, our church family, staff, ministers,
and for the work of Christ in the world.*

- Pre-Service Music** Medley of Carols
String Quartet
- Prelude** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Ritter
(The Prelude is a pathway into the presence of God with meditation and silent prayer.)
- Welcome & Passing of the Peace** Rev. Joel McMakin
- * **Chiming of the Trinity**
- * **Opening Hymn** “O Come All Y Faithful” UMH #234
- Lighting of the Advent Wreath** Judi & Corey Merchant
*Congregational Response:
We live as people who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God’s kingdom.*
- * **Affirmation of Faith** Rev. Jim Creel, Jr. | UMH #881
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
- * **The Gloria Patri** UMH #70
- Children’s Message** Pastor Donna
- Anthem** “Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head” arr. Gorton
Simon Hill, violin
- Pastoral Prayer** Rev. Michelle Louk
- 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.
- Celebrating Grace by Returning God’s Tithes and Giving Our Offerings**
(Offering Stewards will come forward at this time. Please register attendance.)
- Offertory** “A Christmas Medley”
Grant Nesmith, vocals/guitar
- * **The Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #95
- * **Offertory Prayer** Rev. Creel
- * **Preparatory Hymn** “Away in a Manger” UMH #217
- * **Scripture** Luke 2:1-20 *Pew Bible NT pg.54*
- Sermon** “Keeping Christmas Well” Rev. McMakin
- Service of Word and Table** Rev. Louk | UMH #12
Communion Reflection *String Quartet*

Please feel free to pray at the altar.

Communion offering may be left at the chancel rail to benefit the Pastors Discretionary Fund.

(Continued on the reverse)

*** Closing Hymn**

“Silent Night”

(As the ushers light the first candle in each pew row, please tilt the unlit candle to light then pass.)

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!

*** Benediction**

Rev. McMakin

*** Postlude**

“O Holy Night”

arr. Hayes

(* Please stand as you are able.)

Members and guests, kindly pass the attendance book along the pew to register your attendance. Members have the option to check-in on the Realm Connect app on their mobile device.

Nursery for infants and to age 3 is available during worship in room 106, Wesley Building.

Please ask the ushers for hearing devices, large print hymnals, or children’s Wiggle Bags.

We are blessed to welcome everyone in our presence today and pray that you will experience the presence of Christ together in worship.

The flowers in traditional worship today are given for the glory of God and in loving memory of Ann Gorton Horan from her loving family.

Special appreciation for the musical talents of the **String Quartet:**

Stephen Williams, violin I; Joshua Parrish, violin II; Wyatt Johnson, viola; Rose Dagraca, cello

Please visit our website to read *The Steeple* newsletter of this week’s church announcements.

Virtual worship opportunities may be found on Facebook (fumcmb), on our website, www.fumcmb.org, or on the mobile app (fumc mb), or Sundays at 10AM on WFXB (FOX TV7), and now on YouTube (@firstchurch6363).

Give electronically with a cell phone. Scan the QR Code with the phone’s camera, tap the link to open **VENMO** to give.



Serving in Worship

GREETERS

Front Entrance Annette & Ed Willett

USHERS Gene Singleton, Preston Bowers, Jackson Bowers, Neal Bowers, Dabney Joyner, Annette Willett, Ed Willett

COMMUNION STEWARDS Dabney Joyner, Donna McQueen, Reagan McQueen, Sharri Hammond, Shelby Sansbury, Rachel Platt, Michelle Bowers

ACOLYTE Drew Kelly

CRUCIFER Michael Kelly

VIDEO Jim Lewis

AUDIO Melissa Sadin