



Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Prelude

"Silent Night in a Manger"

We Gather

Opening Hymn

"O Come All Ye Faithful" UMH 234 v. 1 & 6

Welcome

Advent Wreath Lighting

We Hear the Word

First Carol

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" UMH 184 v. 1 & 3

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19, NRSV

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

*"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals*

*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.
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.*

Leader: *The Word of the Lord*

People: *Thanks be to God*

Fourth Carol

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" UMH 216 v. 1 & 2

Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

*But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,*

*in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.*

*If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.*

Leader: *The Word of the Lord*

People: *Thanks be to God*

Fifth Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH 230 v. 1 & 4

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35,38, NRSV

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord*

People: *Thanks be to God*

Sixth Carol

"The First Noel" UMH 245 v. 1 & 2

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-20, NRSV

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.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds

returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord*

People: *Thanks be to God*

Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-5 (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 light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Leader: *This is the Word of God for the people of God.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Homily

"The Light of the World"

We Respond to the Word

Special Music

"O Holy Night"

Collect

We Go Forth

Closing Song

"Silent Night" UMH 239 v. 1 & 4

Benediction

Thank you to those who donated to U.M. ARMY this advent season in memory, honor, or celebration of your loved ones. The following dedications were made:

In Memory of:

Joyce Libby by Dale Libby

Mr. & Mrs. Duane Libby by Dale Libby

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Williams by Dale Libby

Mr. & Mrs. Lester Hawton by Dale Libby

Robert & Louise Keller (parents of Robert Keller, Jr.) by Robert & Janice Keller

Eugene & Alice Glass (parents of Janice Keller) by Robert & Janice Keller

Paul Lambert's Family by Paul & Irene Lambert

Irene Burton Lambert's Family by Paul & Irene Lambert

F H Milburn by Jane Milburn

Lester Miles by Herb & Linda Miles

Harry & Jackie Hanson by Bill & Diane Tasto

Delmar & Dorothy Tasto by Bill & Diane Tasto

Bill Sheubart by Bill & Diane Tasto

Ivan & Joanne Schwing by Sharon & David Hill

Jerry Hill by Sharon & David Hill

In memory of Coach Bill Yeoman, University of Houston and St. Luke's United

Methodist Church by Tom & Cheryl Fowler

In Honor of:

Frances Mills Taylor by Larry & Barbara Monte

Rev. & Mrs. Dean Libby by Dale Libby

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sheppard by Dale Libby

Brooke, Katie, & Luke Fowler by Tom & Cheryl Fowler

Evan and Anders Tellinghuisen by Tom & Cheryl Fowler

Ethan Keller (grandchild of Robert & Janice Keller) by Robert & Janice Keller

Olivia Tucker (grandchild of Robert & Janice Keller) by Robert & Janice Keller

Sloane Tucker (grandchild of Robert & Janice Keller) by Robert & Janice Keller

Carolyn Overton, wonderful mother, MIL, Nana and friend Tony & Susan Barré

Paul & Irene Lambert's Family by Paul & Irene Lambert
Elizabeth Hill by David & Sharon Hill

In Celebration of:

Our children and grandchildren by Larry & Barbara Monte

Caitlyn, Logan, & Luke Libby by Dale Libby

Torrance & Bailey Sheppard by Dale Libby

Margaret Gaspard for her dedication to the music at CUMC by Glenda Ransom

Robert & Delaney Barré, Newlyweds by Tony & Susan Barré