

## CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 ~ 7 p.m.

Welcome as we celebrate the birth of Christ, the Light of the world. Receive a candle as you enter.  
The light will be passed during "Silent Night."

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

Rev. Corinne Boruff

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Boruff

ONE: God reaches down among us and embraces us with love, hope, peace and joy.

**ALL: Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

ONE: Let us join the angels in singing.

**ALL: Our hearts are singing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

### \*HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

#234

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

### \*INVOCATION

### LIGHT OF THE WORLD

ONE: This is the last time this year we will light the Advent candles.

*Light candles: 3 purple & 1 pink*

ONE: These candles have been burning as we thought about hope, peace, joy and love. These are the gifts which Jesus brings to us at Christmas. The waiting is over and Jesus is here!

ONE: Today we light the Christ candle, the candle which represents Jesus. It is the center of our wreath, just as Jesus is the center of our lives.

ALL: Happy Birthday, Jesus!

*Light the Christ candle.*

ONE: God, our hearts sing with joy and praise! We rejoice that Jesus came among us. By his birth and life, he has shown us that we are your people and that we are greatly loved. Help us to remember Christmas all year long by giving to others the gifts of life: hope, peace, joy and love, expressed in the works of our hands and hearts. Amen.

**ALL: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

### \*HYMN

"Joy to the World"

#246

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Ally Hall

*All children are invited to come forward for a message.*

### HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

#238

1. Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing,  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

4. See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise,  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

### OFFERING TO GOD

### OUTREACH CHRISTMAS OFFERING OFFERTORY

Susan Selby  
Sanctuary Choir

"Oh Bethlehem"

### \*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.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Susan Selby

### HYMN

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

#240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th' angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

### \*GOSPEL

Ryan Falkenberry

Luke 2:1, 3-7 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.  
<sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their 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 guest room available for them.

### \*HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#230

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

*You may be seated.*

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT) DeWayne Landwehr  
<sup>6</sup>For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.

**HYMN** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230  
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
o come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Micah 5:2-4 (ESV) Merrilyn Vance  
<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem..., are only a small village  
among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel,  
whose origins are in the distant past, will come from  
you on my behalf. <sup>3</sup> The people of Israel will be  
abandoned to their enemies until the woman in labor  
gives birth. Then at last his fellow countrymen will  
return from exile to their own land. <sup>4</sup> And he will stand  
to lead his flock with the LORD's strength, in the  
majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
This is God's message for us today.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Rev. Boruff

**HYMN** "Go Tell It on the Mountain"  
Refrain:  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
(Refrain)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo,  
above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.  
(Refrain)

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
(Refrain)

**INVITATION TO SHARE THE LIGHT**

*As the flame is passed, TIP THE UNLIGHTED CANDLE  
to pass the flame. Baskets will receive your extinguish  
candle as you exit the sanctuary.  
Children may use their glow sticks.*

**HYMN** "Silent Night" #239  
1. 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.

2. 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!

3. 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.

4. 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. Corinne Boruff

**\*POSTLUDE**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

***Please note the church offices will be closed  
December 25, 26 and 27th, and reopen on  
December 30, 2024***

***Merry Christmas!***



**First United Methodist**

FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
December 24, 2024 — 7 p.m.**

Pastor: Corinne Boruff  
Director of Family Ministries: Ally Hall  
Ministers: Congregation