

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO
(269) 381-6340 † www.umc-kzo.org

December 24
11 pm 2023

The Nativity of our Lord

We'd like to connect with you. Please fill out the attendance pad and introduce yourself as you pass it to your neighbor.

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE *Coventry Carol*
 See Amid the Winter Snow

15th cent. Melody, arr Gerard Willmes
English carol arr. Gerard Willmes

CHRISTMAS BELLS

***CALL TO CHRISTMAS**

In the dark of our night, stars, shine your light!
Moon, give us your gentle beams!
Sun, be hidden now, to make way for a greater light.
Earth, breathe deeply now, for your time has come.
On this night Word becomes flesh.
Human and divine are married and give birth.
All earth is hushed, as God comes among us.
Angels sing, as a woman brings forth Love.
People of God, come in wonder and joy.
God of love, we give you thanks and praise!

***OPENING CAROL #234** *O Come All Ye Faithful* vs. 1, 3, 4, & 6 (UMH-red hymnal)

***WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** Rev. Julie Kline

PRAYER OF TRANSCENDENCE Rev. Matt Weiler

We are a Reconciling Congregation, welcoming all.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity.

We welcome all with *open hearts, open minds, open doors.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES & CHRIST CANDLES Owen-Rogers family

One: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

[All candles are lit.]

All: We rejoice in God’s steadfast presence in our lives, and in God’s unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries, his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

REFRAIN *Christ Be Our Light*

by Bernadette Farrell

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Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
 Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your church gather-ered to - day.

***GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 2:1-20 *The Birth of Jesus* Deb Search Willoughby

***CAROL #238** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (UMH-red hymnal)

MESSAGE *Humble Acts of Love* Rev. Julie Kline

COMMUNION (Musical setting A pg. 17-18 in the UMH-red hymnal)

All are welcome to the meal Jesus hosts. There is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one too old or too young; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. You, who are part of God’s creation are welcome to receive Holy Communion this night by coming forward by the center aisle, taking a piece of bread and a cup of juice. Gluten-free bread is served at the stations nearest the communion table.

God is with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God/Father/Mother, 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Music during the distribution *Gesu Bambino*

Pietro A. Yon

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have fed the hungry; now send us into the world to share your justice, to bring your good news to the poor, and to shine your light in this world to make a way for your coming, in the name and the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Loose coins received will be designated for the support of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for their work around the world.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Still, Still, Still* Trad. German Carol, arr. Cathy & David Moglebust

***THE DOXOLOGY #240 v. 1** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (UMH-red hymnal)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 give and 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.

*SERVICE OF LIGHT

One: Jesus said, "I have come as a light into the world.
Whoever believes in me will not remain in darkness."

All: **In Christ's name, I will light my candle.
With Christ's strength, I will take it into the world.**

*As we light our candles, please turn and pass the light to the person next to you, tilting only the **UNLIT** candle to avoid dripping wax.*

We invite all to proceed outside where we will sing our silent night to the community, sharing our light with the world. You are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary.

*CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*CAROL #239 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

(UMH-red hymnal)

**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.**

(You are invited to carefully raise your candle during this last verse)

**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

(Please extinguish your candle after the benediction)

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler

Deb Search Willoughby

Advent Candle Lighters: The Owen-Rogers Family

Communion Servers: Deb Search Willoughby,

Derek and Dawn Wheaton

Director of Music **Organist**

Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk

Oboist **Soprano soloist**

Maria Schneider Lauren Estep

Audio/Visual Team: Casey Curran, Bryan Heany,

Jason Brophy, Phil VanOrman

Greeters: John & Diane Boley, Derek & Dawn

Wheaton, Diane & Lori Owen-Rogers

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

In our worship, we strive to witness to the wholeness of God, embracing the diversity of images of God that are found within Scriptures. We will seek to include male, female, and gender-neutral language and imagery for God, and utilize language that helps to avoid binary terms in pronouns and images of people. In our hymns and liturgy, we invite you to use pronouns that best express your practice and affirm your faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome. If you are visiting First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo for the first time or are visiting us for the holidays, we bid you welcome! If you are seeking a church home, please consider worshiping with us again and discovering more about the journey of faith offered to all by our loving and seeking God. We worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Offering. Our offering this Christmas will support the following organizations: Wesley Foundation, welcoming college students and offering diverse programming and collaboration with community groups; Growing Hope Globally, supporting agricultural programs that make a lasting impact in families and communities; Immigration Law and Justice Michigan, extending hospitality to low-income immigrants with legal assistance; and Helping Our Neighbors, extending a life-line to individuals confronting the threat of homelessness or utility shut-offs.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

December 31, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Matt Weiler

Jesus of Nazareth

Luke 2:22-40

January 7, 2024

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

Accepting God's Claim Upon Us

Mark 1:4-11

We're glad you are our guest today!

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Center.

Child care with trained and fully vaccinated staff is provided on the second floor for infants through three-year-olds.

Worship activities for children can be found on a cart outside the said sanctuary doors.

LARGE print bibles and Hymnals are available at the Park Street entrance.

Hearing assistance devices are available at the Welcome Center.

Today's service is being livestreamed and recorded. You may request a free copy of the DVD from the office. Previous worship services may be found on our website: www.umc-kzo.org. You may view worship services on our YouTube channel: [Kalamazoofirstunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/Kalamazoofirstunitedmethodistchurch)

Clergy & Directors

Rev. Julie Kline

Lead Pastor

Rev. Matt Weiler

Pastor of Community Formation

Jacqueline Stilger

Director of Music

Julia Librizzi

Director of Children and Families Ministries

Thom Victor

Pastor of Congregational Care

Ruth LaMachia

Director of Business Administration

OUR MISSION

We are called to
Experience God's love
Celebrate God's love
Share God's love

OUR VISION

We are a Christ-centered community where our stories are woven with God's story.

OUR VALUES

Love: God is Love and all creation is made in love, by love, for love.
Community: Sacred relationship with God and one another.
Inclusion: All identities belong and are loved in Christ.
Justice: Restoration of equity and wholeness.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Office Hours this week will be Tues - Thurs, 10 - 2

Sunday, December 24

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, December 25

The church building will be closed

Tuesday, December 26

Office hours 10 am - 2 pm

Wednesday, December 27

Office hours 10 am - 2 pm

12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live

12:30 pm Food Pantry

Thursday, December 28

Office hours 10 am - 2 pm

Friday December 29

Saturday December 20

Sunday, December 31

10:00 am Worship - Sanctuary

10:00 am Friendship Village Satellite Worship

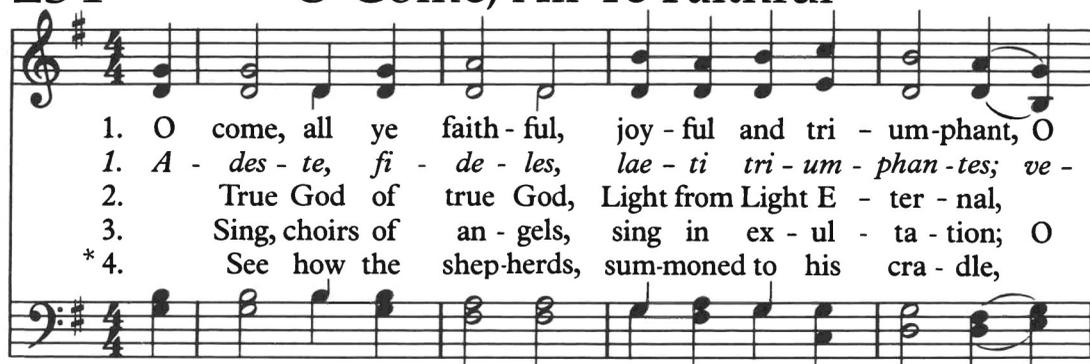
Monday, January 1

The church building will be closed

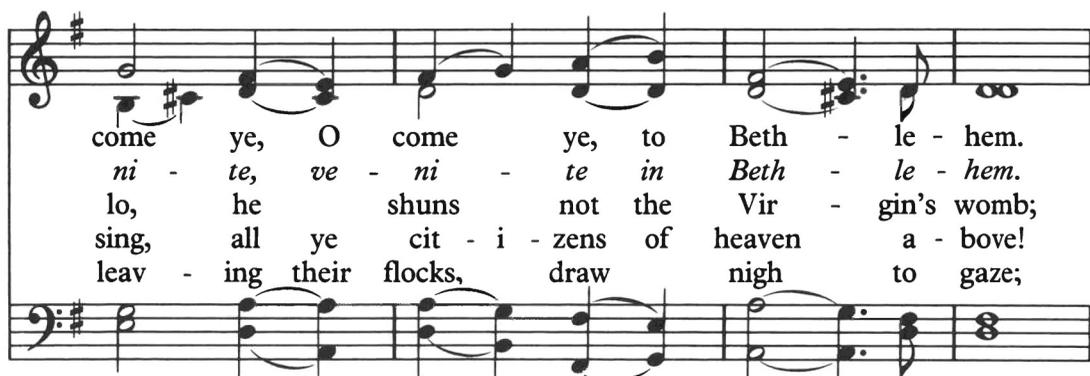
Winter Weather Closing Policy

We share closures on WWMT, Facebook, our webpage, and email.

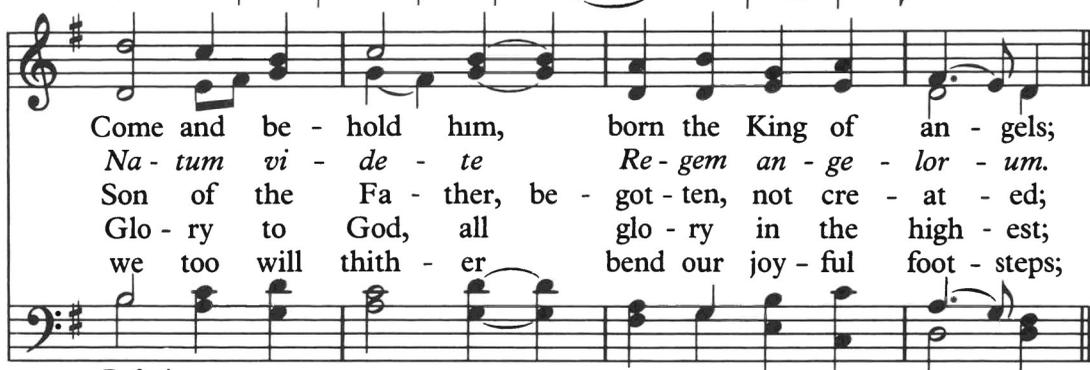
O Come, All Ye Faithful



1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -*
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 *4. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra - dle,



come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

What Child Is This



1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,



lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear, for
 king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.



238 Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An-gels we have heard on high sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4. See him in a man - ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav-en - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Glo - - - - ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - -

WORDS: Trad. French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt. (Lk. 2:6-20)
 MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. by Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937;
 harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964

GLORIA
 77.77 with Refrain

Harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

- - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na-tions rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car-nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man-u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. by George Whitefield, 1753, and others (Lk. 2:8-14) MENDELSSOHN
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856 77.77 D with Refrain

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Silent Night, Holy Night

239



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;



round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant, so ten-der and mild,
nur das trau-tehoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold-er Kna-be mit lock-i-gem Haar,
 glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far, heav-en-ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;



sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!



WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;
 st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.