



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

December 24 2023
7 pm

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE

ANTHEM *Star Carol*

John Rutter

CHRISTMAS BELLS *Christmas Fanfare*

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

CALL TO CHRISTMAS & LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE
Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem

Rev. Julie Kline
by Dr. Maya Angelou

***PROCESSIONAL CAROL #234** *O Come All Ye Faithful*

(UMH-red hymnal)

WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE The Grant Family

One: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

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.

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.*

REFRAIN *Christ Be Our Light*

by Bernadette Farrell

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

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FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 *The People have seen a Great Light* Rev. Weiler**CHORAL ANTHEM** *Of the Father's Love*

12th century. Plainsong and 15th century German carol arr. William Roger Price

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the Source, the Ending he. Of the things that are, that have been and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when halfspent was the night. This flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious spender the darkness every where. True man but very God; from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load. Isaiah 'twas foretold it. This is he whom heaven taught singers sang of old with one accord, whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore.

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-14 *The Birth of Jesus* Jonathan Richardson**ANTHEM** *Gloria* Antonio Vivaldi**THIRD LESSON** Luke 2:15-20 *The Shepherds Seek the Savior****CAROL #238** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (UMH-red hymnal)***FOURTH LESSON** John 1:1-5 *The Light Shines in the Darkness****CAROL #242** *Love Came Down at Christmas* (UMH-red hymnal)**MESSAGE** *Humble Acts of Love* Rev. Julie Kline**CAROL #242 v. 3** *Love Came Down at Christmas* (UMH-red hymnal)**CALL TO OFFERING**

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

OFFERTORY *A Child is Born in Bethlehem*

Philip Stopford

A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia. And joy is in Jerusalem, Alleluia. Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low, Alleluia. Benedicamus Domino. To thee O Lord be glory paid, Alleluia. Thou Son of Mary, Mother maid, Alleluia. To Holy Trinity give praise, Alleluia, with Dec Gracias always, Alleluia.

***THE DOXOLOGY #240** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

(UMH-red hymnal)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (praying together)

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.*

***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!**

***CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

(Please extinguish your candle after the blessing)

***RECESSIONAL CAROL #246** *Joy to the World*

(UMH-red hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Allegro from Concerto in C minor by Vivaldi-Bach*

arr. David Baldwin

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS-The Faith We Sing

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler,
Jonathan Richardson

Advent Candle Lighters: The Grant Family

Director of Music **Organist**
Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk

West Michigan BrassWorks:

Scott Thornburg and Johannes Stegman, trumpets,
Margaret Hamilton, horn, Robert Whaley, tuba,
Hana Beloglavec, trombone

AV Team: Casey Curran, Bryan Heany

Greeters: Ray & Ann Sweany, Judy Sivak, Steve and
Donna Dunyak, Deborah Jewett

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 worshipping 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.

Labyrinth Invitation. Last change to walk the labyrinth the season is after worship tonight downstairs in Wesley Hall. There will be prayer stations set up outside the four corners of the labyrinth to enhance your time of prayer and contemplation. We encourage you to try this ancient prayer practice to quiet your mind, center yourself, and allow your spirit to be in prayer. Peace be with you.

Adult Sunday School Resumes January 7.

Family Foundations: A Sunday School class for parents of young children will begin with fellowship and coffee in room 209. On Jan. 7. Family Foundations will begin their study of I Guess I Haven't Learned That Yet by Shauna Niequist. Using Weekly videos guided by the author and discussion questions with optional at home reading and reflections join this journey of unlearning what is no longer helpful, embracing curiosity, and accepting the unknowns of midlife, heartbreak, and chronic pain. Shauna speaks about the challenges and delights of releasing our expectations for how we thought our lives would look. In this five-session study, follow Shauna on her journey to understand grief, to reshape her faith, to practice courage when all she wanted to do was hide.

The New Storyteller! 9:00 a.m. in room 304. This study is a deep dive into the Book of Acts - the writer, Luke, was a New Storyteller. Class will resume on January 7.

Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist. As part of Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church's vow to resist oppression in all its forms we, the Church Council, commit ourselves to the decisive action that is needed to resist and dismantle racism at every level. This action must go beyond our historically empty rhetoric about repentance and broken promises to be a church that is a credible and active witness for peace, equity and justice in the face of harm visited upon communities of color. We beckon our clergy and lay leadership to unapologetically shine the light of truth on our church community so that we recognize our complicity in systemic racism, recognize and condemn white supremacy as sin, and seek a deep knowing of what God calls us to do. We make these vows so that every person - especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) - may live in safety, health, and freedom.

Winter Weather Closing Policy. Every attempt will be made for the church to be open on Sundays. Please use discretion deciding when to venture out. Weekday meetings may be cancelled if travel is dangerous. Team and committee chairs are asked to contact the church and their team/committee if a meeting is cancelled. Please check Channel 3 news, our website, Facebook, and email for closing notices.

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.

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!

242

Love Came Down at Christmas

1. Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;
 2. Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;
 3. Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;

Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for sa - cred sign?
 love to God and all men,* love for plea and gift and sign.

*"neighbor" may be substituted for "all men"

WORDS: Christina G. Rossetti, 1885

MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by David Evans, 1927; alt.

Harm. by permission of Oxford University Press

GARTAN

67.67

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.

Joy to the World



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,



Let earth re - ceive her King; let
 Let all their songs em - ploy; while
 nor thorns in - fest the ground; he
 and makes the na - tions prove the



ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 comes to make his bless - ings flow
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 far as the curse is found, far -
 and won - ders of his love, and

and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his

heaven and na - ture sing, and
 peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 as the curse is found, far -
 won - ders of his love, and

sing,
 joy,
 found,
 love,

and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his

heaven, and heaven, and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing,
 joy,
 found,
 love,