

CHRISTMAS

a celebration of God's presence

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

CHRIST

With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021 + 7 PM

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The United Methodist Church of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, in our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

Join us in worship, this week and every week:

Sunday at 9AM in-person in the Sanctuary and online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)

Sunday at 11AM in-person in Wesley Hall

Monday—Friday at 9AM (Morning Prayer) via Zoom

(1-888-788-0099, meeting id: 518 014 483; passcode: 170)

In accordance with CDC guidelines and our county's current "high" transmission risk, we require that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear face masks throughout their time in our building.

Worship Celebration

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Noel of the Joyful Shepherds

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

Words of Welcome

+ Call to Worship

Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people.

To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

***There is nothing in death or life, in things present or things to come,
nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say, rejoice!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

+ Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful (vv. 1-3, 6)

UMH 234

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;

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

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;

Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

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

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O, sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Tune: John F. Wade, 1743/ Text: John F. Wade, 1743; trans. Frederick Oakley, 1841 / Public Domain

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson—Isaiah 9.2-7 (CEB)

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

³You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

⁴As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,
the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire.

⁶A child is born to us, a son is given to us,
and authority will be on his shoulders.
He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷There will be vast authority and endless peace
for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of heavenly forces will do this.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson—Titus 2.11-14 (CEB)

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²It educates us so that we can live sensible, ethical, and godly lives right now by rejecting ungodly lives and the desires of this world. ¹³At the same time we wait for the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of our great God and savior Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He gave himself for us in order to rescue us from every kind of lawless behavior, and cleanse a special people for himself who are eager to do good actions.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

+ Gospel Lesson—Luke 2.1-20 (NRSV)

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon

+ Hymn

What Child Is This

UMH 219

***What child is this who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.***

***Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.***

***So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.***

Tune: 16th century English Melody / Text: William C. Dix, 1865 (Lk. 2.6-20, Mt. 2.1-12) / Public Domain

Prayers of the People

Opportunities for Ministry and Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

You are invited to give your tithes and offerings online (www.umcb.org/donate), by mailing a check to the church office, or in one of the offering plates located just inside the back wall of the Sanctuary, either on your way into or out of the worship space. Through whatever means you give, thank you for your generosity and ongoing commitment to making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Choir Anthem

Holy Child

Ruth Elaine Schram

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You create the whole world and call it good.

You fill us with the breath of life and give us the gift of community.
In a world of violence, fear, and division, you send your love among us
in the form of a vulnerable child, to heal us and make us whole.

And so, with your people on earth and your whole creation,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Holy are you, and blessed is your Word made flesh in Jesus Christ.
He was born among excluded, overlooked people.
He grew in wisdom and love, and his ministry proclaimed your good news:
freedom for captives, justice for the impoverished, welcome for the shut-out.
By the baptism of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection,
you give birth to your church, deliver us from slavery to sin and death,
and make with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night we betrayed and abandoned Jesus, he gathered with the disciples,
took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, shared it, and said:
"Receive, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks to you,
shared it, and said:
***"Drink this, all of you; this is my love, poured out for you and for all.
Do this to remember me."***

And so, in remembrance of these and all your mighty acts of grace,
we offer ourselves now in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood, the life and love, of Christ.

Make us, through them, the body of Christ for the world,
redeemed and renewed by your grace.
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to the world,
until Christ comes again, welcoming all people to feast together at your table.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Sharing the Bread and Cup
Choir Anthem

Carol at the Manger

Marty Haugen

Prayer following Communion

***Holy One, you come to us in the seemingly simple:
flesh and blood, bread and wine.
Yet when you come to us, you change our lives.
Help us to receive you so fully this night that through our lives,
all will know your love and welcome, in Christ's holy name. Amen.***

Hymn

All Is Well

The first verse will be sung by a soloist as the Christ candle enters the worship space. The congregation is invited to sing verses 2 and 3.

***All is well all is well, angels and men rejoice
For tonight darkness fell, into the dawn of love's light, sing alle sing alleluia***

***All is well all is well, let there be peace on earth
Christ is come go and tell that He is in the manger, sing alle sing alleluia***

***All is well all is well, lift up your voice and sing
Born is now Emmanuel, born is our Lord and Savior, sing alleluia sing alleluia***

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We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Lighting of All Candles

Christ, the light of the world, gives to each one of us a light,
so that we, too, may shine with hope, peace, joy, and love.
The light comes from God but is shared among us all.
As the light comes to you, hold the light, enjoy the light, and be thankful.
And when it comes time to extinguish your candle,
take the light of Christ with you into your relationships with all others.

Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

The soloist will begin our hymn by singing the first verse in German; the congregation is then invited to join in singing the following verses.

***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.***

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; sts. 1-3 trans. John F. Young; sts. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2.6-20) / Tune: Franz Gruber / Public Domain

+ Proclamation of the Light—John 1.1-14 (CEB)

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

²The Word was with God in the beginning.

³Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being.

What came into being ⁴through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

⁶A man named John was sent from God. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. ⁸He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

⁹ The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.
¹⁰ The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light.
¹¹ The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him.
¹² But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,
¹³ born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.
¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his home among us.
We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

+ Hymn

Joy to the World

UMH 246

*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.*

*Joy to the earth, 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.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*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.*

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98.4-9) / Tune: arr. from George Frideric Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848 / Public Domain

+ Benediction

Go out from this place, shining the light of God's love in the darkness.
We will go to bring peace into a violent world, hope in the midst of despair.
Go with God's blessings, for a child has been born to us,
who is Love for all the nations and Light for everyone.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude

Lord Christ, the only Son of God

J.S. Bach

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Liturgists

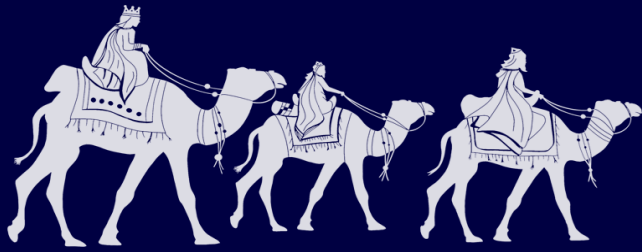
Sandy Marek
Hope Antczak

Music

Megan Denman, *Organist*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director, Trumpet*
Marlynda Dziak, *Guitar*
Sarah Reams, *Vocalist*

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak



The Magi came bearing gifts, and began the tradition of gift-giving to celebrate the birth of Christ. We joined them this year, offering our gifts to support our community (specifically three of our mission partners - OhioGuidestone, Grindstone Elementary Emergency Fund, and Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. For each gift given, an ornament was placed on our tree in honor or memory of a loved one.

Ornaments were placed on our tree in memory of:

- * David Beckman by Pat Beckman & Family
- * Those who became saints during 2021 by Karen Caldwell
- * Gloria Wharton, Ken Williams, and Roger Smith by the Choir
- * Carol Hemker, Pat Reese, Linda Donahue, Barb Rochford, Carol Isgro, Lydia Proctor, Nick Wik, Dick Vale, Laurie Garvin, Karen Maslyk, Charlotte Harlamert, Carol & Maclyn Ball, Carol Geopfert, Boyd Warnsman, Mary Pendell, Mary Gay, Ruth Haber, Bruce Hardy, Harriet Adams, Nancy Gehring, Paul Swaddling, Harriet & Dan Lansell, Jim & Carolyn Miser, Dr. John Robinson, Dr. Warren Berryman, Dr. Margaret Scharf, and Dr. Warren Scharf from the Choir.
- * Don Clarico by Margot Clarico
- * Nicole Cline Lambert by Corky Cline & Wayne Appleby
- * Loved Ones by Barbara Evans
- * Al Wheaton, my friend and mentor, by Molly Force
- * Janet W. Harlamert by Paul Harlamert
- * Uncle Dick, Uncle Jim, and Grandma Waid by Megan & Nathan Howe
- * Bill Hunger, Elsie & Erwin Hunger, and Hazel & Millard Blaettner by Mary Lou Hunger
- * Marilyn Jelinek, Helen & Edward Jelinek, Frances & John Kubicek, Mary Vlach by Wendy Jelinek, Keli Jelinek, & Larry Jelinek
- * My Parents, Marge & Marion Wilson by Karen Jones
- * John L. Kappeler, Jr. by Carol Kappeler
- * Robert Leece and Andrew Ballas by Elaine Leece
- * Helen Mallarnee, Harold & Edna Turner, Walter & Georgia Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee
- * Gloria Wharton by Don & Maryann Obert
- * Don & Betsy Pierce by Bill & Bep Pierce
- * My loving Husband, Kenny by Susan Pogue
- * Lydia Proctor with love from Margaret Proctor and her family
- * Steve, Beverly, & Alice Holland with love from Margaret Proctor

- * Carol Hemker and Jan Harlamert from Margaret Proctor
- * Dave and Parents & Grandparents by Barbara Robinson
- * Donna & Bob Rowland, Virginia & Ray Greenough, and our Grandson, Philip Rowland by Dean & Lin Rowland
- * My Parents, Robert & JoAnne Hahn
- * Wm & Beryl Hamilton, Mary Ann Lundblad, Mike Romano, and Erna Kloos by Nancy Schillace
- * The Reljin Family and The Schuld Family by Joe & Rebecca Schuld
- * Russel Todd Simon, Joseph & Marie Simon, and Vic & Ruth Petras by Russ & Ruthann Simon
- * My Husband, Kenny Smith by Marilyn K. Smith
- * Lydia Proctor, Beloved Mother and Grandmother, by Carol Proctor Stepancik
- * Bernard McGaughey, Ken Roads, Karen Friel, Tom Krukemeyer, Virginia Tekushan, John Schuetz, Jan Harlamert, Doris Balchick, Betty Halapy, and Joyce McGee by Judy & Chet Talarczyk

Ornaments were placed on our tree in honor of:

- * Amelia Caldwell, Those who teach to inspire, Karen, BW Choir Members by Karen Caldwell
- * Loved Ones by Barbara Evans
- * Megan & Nathan Howe by Mary & Jack Howe
- * Our families By Megan & Nathan Howe
- * Roy Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee
- * David Proctor with love from Margaret Proctor and his family.
- * Dr. Barbara MacGregor from Margaret Proctor
- * Julie, Larry, Owen, & Josie Swartz by Barbara Robinson
- * Family & Friends and The UMCB Church Staff by Dean & Lin Rowland
- * David Proctor, Beloved Father and Grandfather; all my Sisters & Brothers, my Daughters, Sons-in-law, & Step-Grandson, and all my Nieces & Nephews by Carol Proctor Stepancik
- * Susan Pogue, Nancy Schillace, Joanne Mansfield, Joan & Yvonne Michalak, Gary & Nadia Talarczyk, Barb & Jim Szabo, and Joann Draves by Judy & Chet Talarczyk