

*Haste, haste
to bring him
laud,
the babe,
the son of
Mary.*



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022 + 4 PM

Artwork by Tessa Canterbury

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 - Traditional Worship, Sanctuary and online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)

Sunday at 11AM - Modern worship, Wesley Hall

Monday—Friday at 9AM - Morning Prayer via Zoom
(1-888-788-0099, meeting id: 518 014 483; passcode: 170)

Worship Celebration

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude *Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn (Herr Gott, nun sei gepreiset)* BWV 601 J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

O Holy God, tell us your story—tell us your Christmas story.

*Help us to hear this story of ordinary people who were brave,
of love that changed the world,
of angels that deliver your message,
of starlight that guides the way.*

*In a tired and anxious world, we gather around your Word today
like people gather around a fire to be warmed.*

Warm us by your light. Speak to us your truth.

Clear out space in us to truly be present with you as you are present with us.

Quiet our minds. Open our hearts. Re-kindle your fire. 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

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

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.*

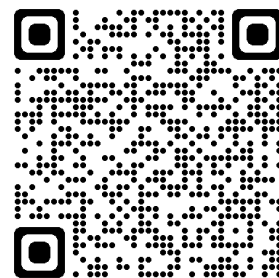
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt by George Whitefield, 1753, and others (Lk 2.8-14)
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr by Williams H. Cummings, 1856/ 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

Come Follow That Star

Nancy Price, Don Besig

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
Handbell Choir Anthem

The Coventry Carol

Noel A. Piercy

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 light of Christ will be shared through the congregation while we sing this hymn. 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 1.1-5(CEB)

In the beginning was the Word

and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

² The Word was with God in the beginning.

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

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

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

*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

Variations on Noël Novelet - Rondo

Michael Burkhardt

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
 Rev. Carrie Antczak

Liturgist

Rachel Huth

Music

Evan Collins, *Organist*
 Tori Penfound, *Handbell Choir Director*
 Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
 Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*
 Marlynda Dziak, *Guitar/Vocalist*
 Emma Reams, *Vocalist*
 Sarah Reams, *Vocalist*

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
 Marlynda Dziak
 Debbie Haas



Magi Gifts 2022

The Magi came bearing gifts, and began the tradition of gift-giving to celebrate the birth of Christ. We joined them, offering our gifts to support our community. These gifts support three of our mission partners - Berea Community Outreach, Second Mile Outreach, and the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. For each star on our tree in the Sanctuary, a gift was given in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Given in Memory of

Dean Rowland 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 and Maclyn Ball,
Carol Geopfert, Boyd Warnsman, Mary Pendell,
Mary Gay, Ruth Haber, Bruce Hardy, Harriet Adams,
Nancy Gehring, Paul Swaddling, Harriet and Dan Lansell,
Jim and Carolyn Miser, Dr. John Robinson,
Dr. Warren Berryman, Dr. Margaret Scharf,
Dr. Warren Scharf, Gloria Wharton, Ken Williams,
and Roger Smith by The Choir

Tom & Tommy Christian, Bob & Louise Laughlin, and
Valerie & Buck Stultz by Carrie & Jason Antczak

Harry & Marie Gregg and Virden & Roberta Beckman
by Karl & Cass Beckman

Jean Tharp and Marie Douglas by Amelia Caldwell

My Parents by Sandra Demkowicz

Harl Evans and Loved Ones by Barbara Evans

Jim Gorsline by Marge Gorsline

My Parents by Carol Heskett

Marilyn Jelinek, Helen & Edward Jelinek,
Frances & John Kubicek, and Mary Vlach
by Keli, Larry, & Wendy Jelinek

John Kappeler by Carol Kappeler

Donna & George O'Brien and Duane Dawley
by Ron & Dorene Larkey

Robert Leece and Robert Ballas by Elaine Leece

Helen Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee

Bobby Meadows, Sr. and Kayle Haller
by the Meadows Family

Dave Murnan by DeeDee Murnan

Gloria Wharton by Don & Mary Ann Obert

My Husband, Kenny, and Dad, Mom, Jake, & Lori
by Susan Pogue

Lydia Proctor with love

by Margaret Proctor & her Family

Steve, Beverly, & Alice Holland, Carol Hemker, and
Jan Harlamert with love by Margaret Proctor

Dave Robinson, Parents, and Grandparents
by Barbara Robinson

My Mother, Jean Boyer and My Husband, Jim Rollins
by Sue Rollins

Dean Rowland by Lin Rowland

My parents, Bob & JoAnne Hahn by Laura Rushton

Todd Simon, Ruth & Victor Petras, and
Marie & Joseph Simon by Russ & Ruthann Simon

Lydia Creed Proctor, beloved mother and grandmother by
Carol Ann Stepancik

Alice & John Wintermute and Jack & Marie Tully
by Wendy Tully

Woods Robinson (Rebecca's Father)
by the Zeiter Family

Given in Honor of

My Family by Sandra Demkowicz

My Daughters & Granddaughter by Barbara Evans

My Family, Carol Thompson, and Ronald Corey
by Carol Heskett

Megan & Nathan Howe by Mary & Jack Howe

Our Families by Megan & Nathan Howe

Roy Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee

Our Loving Families, past & present
by Barb Peterson & Tom Riggle

All my Family & Friends by Susan Pogue

David Proctor with love

by Margaret Proctor & his Family

Dr. Barbara MacGregor by Margaret Proctor

Julie, Larry, Owen, & Josie by Barbara Robinson

My Family and My Friends by Sue Rollins

Family & Friends by Lin Rowland

My Daughters - Hilary & Jenny, my Sons-in-laws -
Dan & Colin, and my Step Grandson, Josiah
by Carol Ann Stepancik

David G. Proctor, Sr., beloved father, all my Siblings and
Siblings-in-law, and all my Nieces and Nephews
by Carol Ann Stepancik