

Christmas Eve ~ December 24, 2020

1:30pm, 3:00pm & 4:15pm

PRELUDE Improvisation on *In the Bleak Midwinter* CRANHAM

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid; for see
I am bringing you good news of great joy.
**To us is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger.
**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace!**

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

1:30pm ~ The Shaw Family
3:00pm ~ The Ganey Family
4:15pm ~ The Jones Family

**Response: 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.**

Let us sing together:

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the sun to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

✠CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Even on this day of celebration,
let us come before the Holy One of Israel
confessing our sins with contrite hearts,
so that we may not deceive ourselves,
but instead know the truth of our forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
we confess that our hearts have not been open to all
that you have revealed to us in the nativity of your Son.
You sent Christ to be born as a helpless Child,
and yet we have not attended to suffering of children.
You chose humble Mary to be mother of our Lord Jesus,
and yet we have not attended to the struggles of women.
The holy family could find no room in Bethlehem
but a stable, and yet we have not
attended to the cry of the homeless.
You announced your birth to lowly shepherds,
yet we ignore those who tend our farms and fields.
Forgive our lack of attention, and free us for joyful
compassion, that we may know Christ in serving others.
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Break forth into singing, For the Lord has redeemed you.
See the salvation of God; And comfort in his strong arms.

READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

Christ's birth and Kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High*

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

Refrain:

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
(Refrain)

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

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)

READING

Psalm 98

The Lord comes, the Lord comes, and all creation sings for joy.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

1:30 *O Holy Night* (Dwight/ Adam)
Tom Hood

3:30 *Mary, Did You Know* (Schrader)
Susan Grace, Carolyn Kidd

4:15 *O Holy Night* (Dwight/ Adam)
Jenna Hood

✠GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-14

John tells the story of Jesus from the very beginning.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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!

READING Hebrews 1:1-4
A reflection on the coming of “long-expected” Jesus.

MESSAGE “Undeniable Light” Dr. Darren M. McClellan

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER
Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

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.

And so,
With your people on earth
And all the company of heaven
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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And so,
In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
We offer ourselves 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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*As a matter of precaution, participants are advised not to tip a lighted candle.
If you have the light, let those who are wise come to you.*

✠**CAROL** *Silent Night, Holy Night*
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!

✠BENEDICTION

*Please extinguish candles before leaving the pews. Candles will be collected at the exits
for the next service.*

✠**POSTLUDE** *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy* West Indian Carol

Assisting in Worship

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, Rev. Antonio Christie, Rev. Laura Parker

Music: Tom Hood, John Richardson

Readers: Dr. Ann Pearson, Caring Ministries (1:30, 3:00)

Mrs. Michelle Graham, Children’s Ministries (4:15)

Mrs. Kimberly McKeough (1:30) Beth Claunch (4:15)

Mrs. Alicia Searcy (3:00) Mr. Steve Pearson, (4:15)

Acolytes: Radley Shaw (1:30) Arabella Rowland (4:15)

Media and Sound:

Robert Hammon (1:30) Ann Lyles Tapscott (3:00) James Brown (4:15)

YEAR END GIVING NOTE:

According to the IRS, all contributions for 2020 must be received by 1pm
on December 31 in the church office or postmarked by that date if mailed.

Fairhope United Methodist Church

155 South Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36532 ~ 251-928-1148

For a complete list of events – Visit FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

DECEMBER 24, 2020

1:30pm, 3:00pm, and 4:15pm

Dr. Darren M. McClellan, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Laura Parker, *Minister of Discipleship*
Rev. Antonio Christie, *Minister of Outreach*