

a spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD. ³ He will delight in fearing the LORD. He won't judge by appearances, nor decide by hearsay. ⁴ He will judge the needy with righteousness, and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land. He will strike the violent with the rod of his mouth; by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked. ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and a lion will eat straw like an ox. ⁸ A nursing child will play over the snake's hole; toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den. ⁹ They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain. The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the LORD, just as the water covers the sea.

CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UMH # 230

FOURTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35,38 *Joel T.*
The angel announces to Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son.

²⁶ When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹ Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³ He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?" ³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. ³⁸ Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

CAROL *Away in a Manger* UMH # 217

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 *Pastor Doug*
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant and lying in a manger." ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

CAROL *What Child is This* UMH #219

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16 *Joel T.*
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." ¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

CAROL *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* UMH # 229

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH # 95

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Joel T.

Holy God, today we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child! He is the light that guides along your way, offering us hope for the future. In joy, we return to you these financial gifts, trusting that by your grace, they must bring hope all your beloved children. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Together, let us pray
For the people of this congregation...
For those who suffer and those in trouble...
For the concerns of this local community...
For the world, its people, and its leaders...
For the earth you have given to our care...
For the Church universal-its leaders, its members, and its mission...
In communion with the saints...

After each prayer, the leader and people will conclude: Lord, in your mercy... hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH #895

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

+SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Pastor Doug

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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. ⁴What came into being through 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.

+SHARING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Doug

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Pastor Doug

God promises to Abraham all the nations will obtain blessings.

¹⁵The LORD's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, "I give my word as the LORD that because you did this and didn't hold back your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will bless you richly and I will give you countless descendants, as many as the stars in the sky and as the grains of sand on the seashore. They will conquer their enemies' cities. ¹⁸All the nations of the earth will be blessed because of your descendants, because you obeyed me."

CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Vs. 1,2,4, & 7)

UMH #211

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Joel T.

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. 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.

CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Vs. 1& 2)

UMH #216

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a,6-9

Pastor Doug

The king will bring justice for the poor and peace for all God's creation.

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots. ²The LORD's spirit will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of planning and strength,

CHRISTMAS EVE

+Indicates that all are invited to stand in body or spirit.
Congregation is invited to respond as indicated by **Bold Print**

PRELUDE

Kristine L.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Doug

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Pastor Doug

God, we do not know what to do, but You do. Open our hearts, eyes, and minds to You. Amen.

CENTERING TIME

Kristine L.

+LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Joel T.

Joel: When the people longed for hope and deliverance,

All: Isaiah declared the good news of a child being born.

Joel: Now, we come seeking God's hope, peace, joy, and love,

All: and we are greeted with news of a most wonderful kind.

Joel: We light this final candle, the one we call "the Christ candle,

All: a reminder that God is with us, and our salvation has come!

+CAROL

O Come All Ye Faithful

UMH # 234

+OPENING PRAYER (UNISON):

Joel T.

God of Love and Hope, we gather, online and in-person, to praise you, and to witness the glory of your Light coming among us. Through this season of Advent, we have heard your call to "prepare the way" and to embrace the possibilities of your future. Yet, even as we pause before the manger, our thoughts are already elsewhere. Our minds are so caught up in what needs to be done, that we do not take the time to linger in these moments. Forgive us, O God! Open our ears to hear the message of the angels, our eyes to see once more the wonders you are doing here among us. Help us to treasure these things in our hearts and to carry them out into every day of our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

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. ⁹The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. ¹⁰The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. ¹¹The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. ¹²But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.

¹⁴The 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.

+CAROL

Silent Night

UMH #239

+BENEDICTION

Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE

Kristine L.

YouTube link for Christmas Eve Service

<https://www.youtube.com/live/EZJxBII3q8w>

Wesley United Methodist Church

Worship Sundays 9 AM

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Rev. Douglas Clement | wumcpastor@wesleyhopeconnection.org | 262-902-5914

DECEMBER 24, 2024

Poinsettias adorning the altar ...

1. Gary & Marian G. In honor of our children, grandchildren & great-grand child
2. Joel & Deb T. In memory of Joe & Ruth T. & Gilbert & Irene L.
3. Karalee L. In thankfulness for Betty S., my mom
4. Kristine L. In memory of Kay & Howard L.
5. Larry S. In memory of James L. & Jana S.
6. Marilyn S.-K. In memory of Don, June, Roger I.
7. Penny M. In memory of Phil, Andy, Rick
8. Roland & Deb R. In honor of all veterans
9. Romelle B. In memory of Norman & Norma B.
10. Steven & Cheryl R. In memory of Richard & Maxine K., Ronald & Joann R. & Karen K.
11. Terry & Allean F. In memory of William & Ada L.
12. Terry & Allean F. In memory of Milo & Lillian F.

