

United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve

*Our Vision is to Know, to Live
and to Share the Love of Jesus Christ.*

Online Worship – 5:30pm

GATHERING MUSIC

Carol Medley

Chris Hisey, strings

*Away in a Manger; O Little Town of Bethlehem;
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing; It Came upon the Midnight Clear;
What Child Is This; O Come, All Ye Faithful*

PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Ahyoung Son, organ

J. F. Wade

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Heather

Rejoice! I bring good news for all people! Unto us a child is born.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Tonight the angels sing on earth.

Glory to God in the highest!

O come, let us adore Christ the Lord!

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH 238

Verse 1

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!

Verse 2

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

Verse 3

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

Verse 4

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)**

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WELCOME

Pastor Heather

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Mike, Katie, Logan and Ruth MacDonald; Joe and Jeanne Galvin
Messiah. King. Savior. Emmanuel. Word made flesh. Light of the world. We know Jesus by all these names
and many others. We light the Christ candle in celebration of his birth, and of the hope, joy, love, and peace he
brings to us and to the whole world. No one has ever seen God, but in Jesus Christ God is made known.
(John 1:1)

PRAYER

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Jesus Came for Everyone”

Pastor Heather

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20 (Common English Bible)

James Hisey II

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

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

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Coventry Carol
Chris & Heather Hisey

Traditional Carol
arr. Jay Rouse

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“Be Born in Us Today”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

The ministry of the church is ongoing during these days. Your gifts, tithes and offerings continue to allow us to “be the church.” Checks may be sent to the church office or given online through our website. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Is There Room at the Manger for Me?
Chancel Choir

Words & Music, M. K. Beall

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**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we seek to honor you with our gifts – money, presence, talents, our hearts. We know that everything in this world is a gift from you, O God, so we humbly return a generous portion to you. We pray that our gifts may inspire us as a church to change people's lives and to spread your message of love and grace. In the name of the Babe lying in the manger, we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *You are invited to pray in the version and language of your heart.*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-5, 9-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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!

Verse 3

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.

(continues on next page)

Verse 4

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!

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH 246

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

Joy to the world, 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.

Verse 3

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.

Verse 4

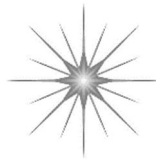
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Ahyoung Son, Organ

Afro-Amer. Spiritual
arr. John W. Work Jr. & W. Farley

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Adam Hamilton, Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas & Mike Poteet, Incarnation: Leader Guide, Abingdon
Press, 2020

WELCOME! We joyfully welcome all visitors to our worship service this morning. You are welcome to make this your community of faith and participate in any of the activities of our congregation.

Our Mission is:

To Know the love of Jesus in personal ways through worship, prayer and study
To Live the love of Jesus through acts of compassion, gentleness and justice
To Share the love of Jesus in our homes, our community and the world
To Welcome all of God's children regardless of age, race, ability, sexual or gender orientation, and economic circumstance.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WESTPORT AND WESTON
49 WESTON ROAD • WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

OUR MINISTERS
EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION
JAY LUDY AND CINDY GLOVER, LAY LEADERS
REV. HEATHER A. M. SINCLAIR, PASTOR
CHRISTOPHER HISEY, MUSIC DIRECTOR • AHYOUNG SON, ORGANIST
MARILYN SMITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

TELEPHONE: 203.227.4707
FACSIMILE: 203.227.6979
WEBSITE: WESTPORTUMC.ORG

E MAIL: CHURCH: OFFICE@WESTPORTUMC.ORG
PASTOR: HSINCLAIR@WESTPORTUMC.ORG
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: MAESTROCJH@AOL.COM