

Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

December 24th, 2023

7:00 PM

PRELUDE

WELCOME

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Do not be afraid; for see— I am bringing you good news of great joy.

P: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

L: And in him the Word became flesh and lived among us,

P: And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

L: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

✠ Hymn of Praise

O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1,3,4,6) #234

CHRISTMAS COLLECT:

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, share that gift of hope with those who long for peace, that we might reflect the perfect community of heaven; with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2: 1-7

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM "Sing We Now of Christmas" with "The First Noel"

✠ DOXOLOGY

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2: 8-20

HOMILY (with Children's Time)

SPECIAL MUSIC O Holy Night
Todd McConkey
Bev Taylor

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

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...
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.

*Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...
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:

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be 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.

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.*

SHARING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION CAROLS

Please join in singing these carols as we receive the bread and cup.

Angels from the Realms of Glory #220

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
ye have seen his natal star:
4. Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

Refrain

**Come and worship. Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Away in a Manger

#217

1. Away in a manger, No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me I pray;
bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

What Child Is This

#219

1. 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.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come peasant, king to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds watch and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

As the lights are dimmed, the pastor will light the ushers' candles. Ushers will then light the candles of those nearest the aisle in each row. Each person will share the light with the next person until all candles have been lit. Please tilt your unlighted candle toward the lighted candle, and hold your lighted candle straight up so others may tilt theirs to be lighted. After singing "Silent Night", receiving the benediction, and singing "Joy to the World," please extinguish your candle and place it in one of the baskets in the welcoming area as you exit.

✠ CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

#239

- 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.
- 2 Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia!"
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"
- 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!
- 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.

✠ CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Joy to the World

#246

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.
- 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.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, not thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessing flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 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.

✠ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

✠ Please stand as you are able.



Next Sunday is Pajama Church!

On the first Sunday after Christmas, (which also happens to be New Year's Eve) we want to invite you to join us for pajama church! You are invited to wear your PJ's (church appropriate of course :)), or other festive holiday sweaters or apparel, and join us for a casual & simple worship service at 10:30 a.m. Let's have a little fun, sing some great songs, and prepare our hearts to adore Him!

"Discovery" Sermon Series coming in January...

Beginning on January 7th, 2024 Rev. Chris Black will kick off a 6 part sermon series called "Discovery: Unearthing Your Spiritual Gifts." Pastor Chris will dive deep into the topic of spiritual gifts from a biblical and Wesleyan perspective. Spiritual gifts is a topic that is often surrounded by controversy and confusion within (and outside) the Church.

This series will equip Christians to explore what their own God given spiritual gifts are, and how they can be used to equip them for discipleship & mission both inside and outside our church. We hope you will join us for what promises to be an exciting and rewarding series.



First
United
Methodist
Church
Madisonville
Tennessee

Welcomes
You With

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

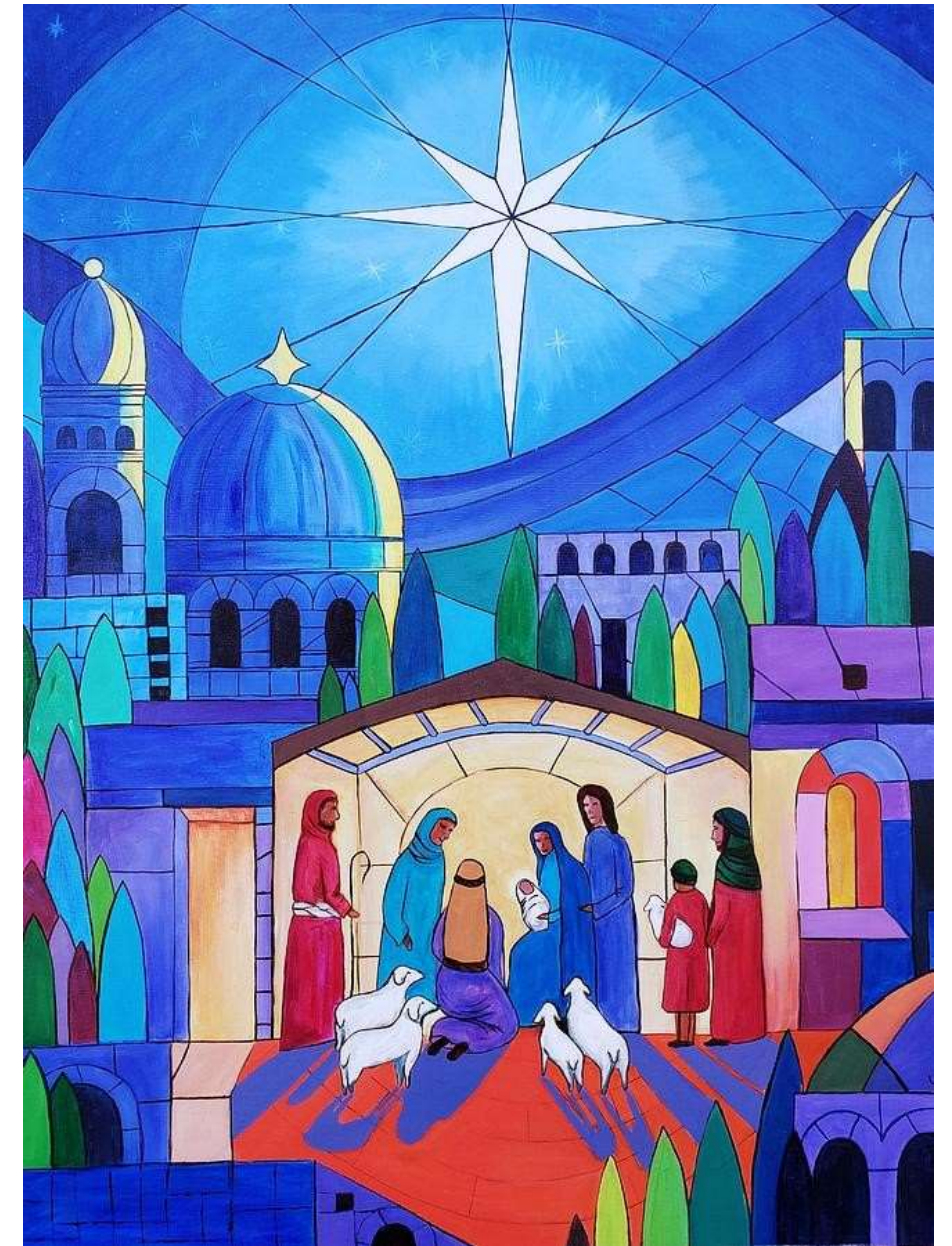
143 College St, PO Box 157
Madisonville, TN 37354-0157
phone/text (423) 442-2471

To learn about our church and its ministries, we invite you to check out our website at 1umcm.com

First United Methodist Church

The Celebration of the Nativity of the Lord

December 24, 2023



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of darkness—on them a light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9; 2b,6)