



MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

(* Indicates when people are invited to stand)

PRELUDE:

"O Morning Star"

Arr Franklin Ritter

WORDS OF WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold! Our God, earth's maker, appears anew.

Let all the earth declare God's marvelous works.

A Word arrives from skies and fields, a message for a world beset by conflict, fire, flood and storm.

The heavens are glad! The earth rejoices! The seas roar! The trees sing!

This is good news, heralding the coming reign of peace for all creation.

Sing a new song of God's glory and strength, of lives made new! Let us worship God.

***HYMN: 234**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

vs 1-4

OPENING PRAYER

This bright night is for mystery, O God. We scarcely understand the ways you break into this world and into our lives. Yet we know you do. The whole earth still needs your peace, with peoples in conflict and climate in crisis. May the ancient story of your arrival this night make us courageous bearers of good news and doers of good deeds. For the sake of your beautiful, created world we pray.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

As we light this final Advent candle, the Christ candle, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. May this light fill our hearts with hope, peace, joy, and love as we rejoice in the coming of our Savior. On this holy night, let us remember the profound love of God for humanity, as demonstrated in the birth of Jesus. Let us be filled with gratitude and awe as we contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation. May the light of Christ shine brightly in our lives and in the world.

PRAYER OF YEARNING

Burdens press us hard, O God. We yearn for harmony: with one another, among races and nations, and with the earth you have created. Where idols distract us from you and your marvelous works, help us make a change. Send us good news of great joy, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our ancestors saw a great light. So, too, do grace and peace descend upon us now. They are already here. They are gifts of God, the Wonderful Counselor, the lifter of burdens and oppressions. Grace has appeared, bringing salvation.

Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

In the name of the Prince of Peace—Jesus, born in a manger this night—let us greet one another with signs of peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHANCEL CHOIR: *“Ding, Dong Merrily on High”*

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 96 (NIV)

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;

tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.”

The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

JOYFUL BELLS

***GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)**

The gospel according to Luke.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

May God’s Word redeem us, increasing our zeal for the renewal of all the earth.

SERMON

Pastor Rob Odum

***HYMN: 238**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

vs 1-4

*OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, may these gifts—offered for good work throughout the world—aspire glory and strength to you.

Amen.

OFFERING MUSIC:

“Still, Still, Still”

Arr Dean McIntyre

***DOXOLOGY: #94**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who parents us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

*BENEDICTION

People of God, you have heard the good news of great joy. It is real. It is for all the earth. Go forth, bearing this news. And may all who hear it and see it, reveal this good news in their lives, and be amazed..

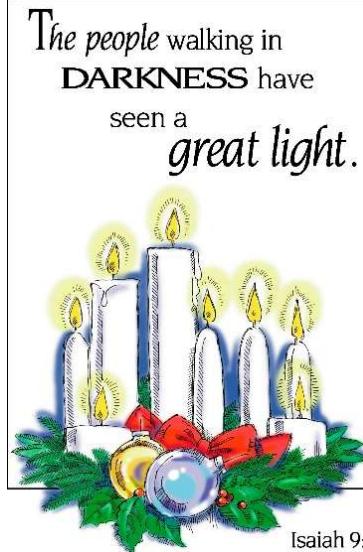
*CLOSING HYMN: 239

"Silent Night"

*POSTLUDE:

"O How Joyfully"

Arr Cindy Berry



Isaiah 9:2



December	Liturgists	Ushers
24th	John Hurley	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
28th	Connie Ziegler	Peter Fetzer & Jackson Lang
January	Liturgists	Ushers
4th	Carolyn Ettlie	To be determined
11th	Lynn Sirna	To be determined
18th	John Hurley	To be determined
25th	Connie Ziegler	To be determined



Memorial UMC

General Information & Staff

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Director of Music: Sarah Brumm

Hymn Leaders: Sarah Brumm,
Summer Ketchell, Emily Bergeron

Pianist & Organist: Karen Fetzer

Live Stream Production Team:

Brad Weller, Xylia-Sophia Conn,
John Stoekl, Tom Rowe, Greg Ettlie

Office Administrator: Peggy Leonhardt

Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-1pm

Script Cards Program

The number of people using the Gift Card Program is growing. That is good news for the church, but we can still use some more people utilizing the program.



Gift Card orders are due the third Sunday of the month.

If you have any questions about the program, or want to order cards, please contact Tom Rowe at 414-331-3753.

Thank you.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Sunday, 9:15am

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday, 10:30am

CERAMICS: Mondays, 1-9pm

CHANCEL CHOIR: Thursday, 6:30-7:25pm

JOYFUL BELLS: Thursday, 7:30-8:30pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

Sunday 12/14 during the worship service.

SASSY SOWERS: 1st Tuesday & 3rd Thursday, 10am-1pm

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: 3rd Tuesday, 9am at Meyers

MEN'S BREAKFAST: 3rd Thursday, 8:30am at Meyers

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:

Wednesday, December 24th at 6pm

POINSETTIA PICK-UP:

after the 6PM Christmas Eve service,

Wednesday 12/24; or again on Sunday,

12/28 after service.

