

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 24, 2020 | 5:00 p.m.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dr. Jay D. Cooper
Senior Minister

Reverend Lucas S. Tribble
Associate Minister

Reverend Gillian L. Walters
Associate Minister

Dr. C. Jason Borders
Theologian in Residence

Reverend Ben A. McDavid
Associate Minister

Dr. James H. Seay
Director of Music

Dr. Karl K. Stegall
Pastor Emeritus

Bishop David W. Graves
*Bishop Alabama-West Florida
Conference*

Dr. Joshua H. Coble
Organist/Assistant Director of Music

Dr. Jeff L. Wilson
*District Superintendent
Montgomery-Opelika and
Montgomery-Prattville Districts*

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE

PRELUDE

Carillon de Westminster

LOUIS VIERNE

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

DR. JAY D. COOPER

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

The three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

INTROIT

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ARR. DAN BIRD

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

*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!*

*True God of True God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;*

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:

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*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:

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

DR. C. JASON BORDERS

Leader: Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you
good news of a great joy for all the people:
People: **And the Word became flesh and lived among
us, and we have seen His glory.**

***INVOCATION**

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: *Let us pray.*
All: **O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth
of Christ. Grant that Christ's spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may
joyfully welcome Jesus's reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus
of old. Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts. Glory to God in the highest,**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Sinco Family
Russell, Tara, Maddie, and Katherine

RESPONSE

***Angels We Have Heard on High
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

REFRAIN

OFFERTORY

The First Noel
Cathedral Choir

ARR. DAN FORREST

*The first Noel, the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping
their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel! Born is the King of Israel.
They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel! Born is the King of Israel. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel! Born is the King of Israel!*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

REV. LUCAS S. TRIBBLE

ACT OF PRAISE

Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Wayne Gill, Baritone
(previously recorded)

ROBERT MACGIMSEY

***GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:1-20

REV. GILLIAN L. WALTERS

ACT OF PRAISE

O Holy Night
Cathedral Choir

ARR. JOHN LEAVITT

*O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and
error pining, 'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a
new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!
Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is Peace. Chains shall He break, for the
slave is our brother, And in His name, all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we. Let
all within us Praise His Holy name. Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever! His power and glory evermore
proclaim. His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

SERMON

DOWN TO EARTH: ILLUMINING US

DR. JAY D. COOPER

**continued onto the back page.*

SERVICE OF LIGHT

As *Silent Night* is being sung, the lights will be dimmed, and the senior minister will light his candle from the Christ candle and then light the candles of the other ministers. They will then light the candle of the first worshipper seated on the outside of each pew. Light will then be passed from worshipper to worshipper. The lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted.

***HYMN**

Silent Night

UMH 239

*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, 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**

DR. JAY D. COOPER

Following the Benediction Response, worshippers will exit taking their lighted candles out into the dark world spreading the light of Christ.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Joy to the World

UMH 246

*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*

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. BACH

**Please stand as you are able.*

*Tonight's offering will be given to the United Methodist Children's Home.
You may also make your offering online at www.fumcmontgomery.org/christmaseve.*

A nursery is provided during this service of worship for your convenience. The nursery can be found in Wesley Hall, accessed through the double doors on the pulpit side.

On behalf of the clergy and staff we would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the Work Area on Worship, the Flower Guild, and to the members of our custodial staff who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes during the Advent Season.

