



**Friends Church**

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*“Ordinary Glory”*

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, inspired by Luke 2:1-20

December 24, 2024

6:30pm

Christmas Eve

## WELCOME TO FRIENDS CHURCH!

We are honored that you have chosen to spend your Christmas Eve with us. Friends Congregational Church is an **Open & Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all people into the full life and ministry of our church—people of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS?** If you are a guest with us tonight, please let us know. Welcome cards are located in the chair backs to fill out and leave in the offering plate during tonight's offertory. If you are joining us online for tonight's service, you will find an On-line Visitor Card at <https://www.friends-ucc.org/your-first-visit>. We are so glad you are here, so please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

**CHILDCARE:** We invite children to participate fully in our community and worship life. Children of all ages are welcome in worship or you may choose childcare, offered for ages 1-5 in the nursery down the hall through the piano side double doors. We currently have Covid Protocols in place, which you can find posted outside the nursery door.

**WiFi:** To access church WiFi, please use this login information,  
WiFi – The Promised LAN                      Password: stillspeaking

**RESTROOMS** are located through the double doors on the piano side of the sanctuary. Gender assigned restrooms are straight down at the end of the hall, and a gender neutral restroom is to the immediate right.

### LEADING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE:

Lay Leader: Jennifer Holleman, Chelsie Lyday, Charlie Hutto  
Greeter: Dwight Roblyer & Peggy Vitek  
Communion Steward: Larry Dooley

We give God thanks for our volunteers sharing their gifts. To volunteer for a Sunday as a lay leader, communion steward, or greeter, email [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org).

### *Christmas Eve*

For centuries, Christmas was celebrated not as a single day, but as a whole season in parts of the world, beginning with December 24, Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is the evening or entire day before Christmas Day, the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus.

## QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“No priest, no theologian stood at the manger of Bethlehem. And yet all Christian theology has its origin in the wonder of all wonders: that God became human. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment.”  
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “God Is In the Manger”

## PRE-SERVICE HANDBELL CHOIR CONCERT: A Child Is Born

Carol of the Bells - Mykola Leontovich, arranged by Cathy Moglebust  
Savior of the Nations, Come - 16th century German tune, arranged by Cathy Moglebust  
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying - Ron Mallory  
What Child Is This? - Traditional English Carol, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner  
Angels We Have Heard on High - French Carol, arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson  
Do You Hear What I Hear? - Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne, arranged by Kevin McChesney  
Joy to the World - George Frideric Handel, arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski

*Friends Church Handbell Choir, conducted by Chris Hoffman*

*Dinah Anderson, Hayley Coltharp, Mac De Leon, Ruthie De Leon, Stacy De Leon, Cady Engler,  
Kim Dooley, Mike Luepke, Ashlie Metcalf, Diane Simpson, Tom Vogel, Kim Witt*

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

### PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Holleman

One: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

**All: to carry Christ into this world.**

One: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

**All: to be a father to a child unlike any other.**

One: The shepherds were invited—

**All: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.**

One: The Magi were invited—

**All: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.**

One: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

**All: then we can trust that we too are invited.**

One: This story is for us.

**All: This love is for us.**

One: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

**All: Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:** No. #345 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

**\*INVOCATION**

Chelsie Lyday

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Dan De Leon

*Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front. All are invited to sing the first verse of "Away in a Manger" (NCH #124) to begin the children's message.*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

**HEBEW SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 9:2-7, NRSV

Brooke Dooley

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**CHORAL ANTHEM:** O magnum mysterium - Tomás Luis de Victoria

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in a manger!

O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!**

## THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

## MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

## INVITATION TO SHARE

Charlie Hutto

## OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriendsucc](https://bit.ly/givetofriendsucc)  
Venmo to 979-307-8860 or @friendsucc

## \*DOXOLOGY

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, God's on - ly - Son.  
the new\* - born

Praise the Spir - it, ev - er - with us. Praise the God - head, Three in - One.

Clear a path! Pre - pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ - mas Day!

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Brooke Dooley

Gracious God,  
Your story is one that forever invites us  
to be our full selves, to take up space, to go where we feel called,  
and to allow this community to feel like home.  
So use these gifts to keep building your home here.  
With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.

## THE OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dan De Leon, Brooke Dooley

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dan De Leon

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 sins,  
as we forgive those who sin 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.

# \*CAROLS BY CANDELIGHT

## Angels We Have Heard on High, vv. 1 & 3 only

An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
Come to Beth-le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

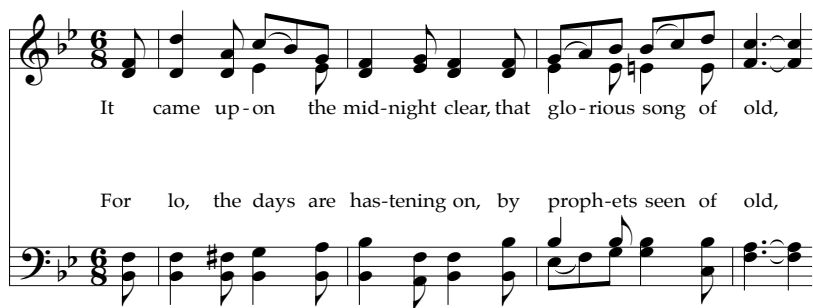
*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

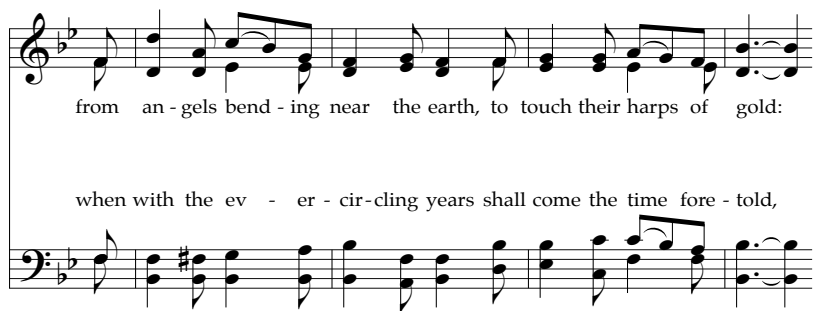
- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

# It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, vv. 1 & 5 only




It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,

For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



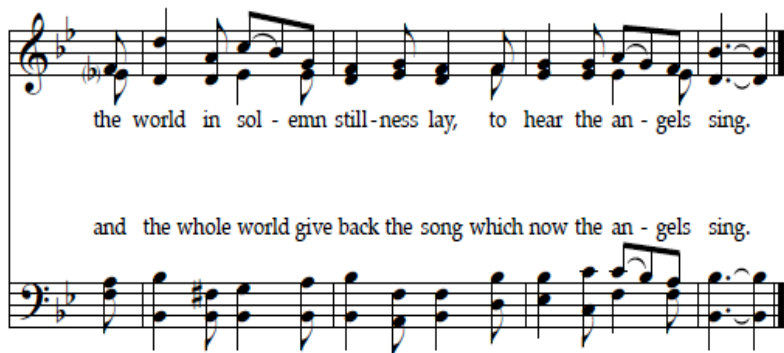
from an-gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:

when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gra-cious King”:

when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



the world in sol-emn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.

and the whole world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.



# O Little Town of Bethlehem, vv. 1 & 4 only

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!

O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.

cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;

We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

# Away in a Manger, vv. 1 & 3 only

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B $\flat$  (D) F



A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B $\flat$  (D) F



The stars in the sk - y looked down where he lay,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

# Silent Night, Holy Night!

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

## \*BENEDICTION

Trent Williams

## POSTLUDE

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### Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: Sing We Now of Christmas - Traditional French Carol, arranged by Bernadine Johnson  
Offertory: O Holy Night - Adolphe Adam, arranged by David Lanz  
Communion: Still, Still, Still - Austrian Carol, arranged by Chip Davis  
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks - George Frideric Handel, arranged by Melody Bober  
Postlude: Silent Night - Franz Xaver Gruber, arranged by David Lanz

Scriptures for First Sunday after Christmas, December 29, 2024: Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GIVE TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND:** Each year, Friends Church members participate in giving to the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ, one of the four special mission offerings of the UCC that members from across the nation contribute towards. For over 100 years, The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees from across the United Church of Christ, providing emergency grants, supplementation for health care, and Christmas “thank you” gift checks to lower-income retired ministers. Please contribute during our services on Christmas Eve or December 29, or through our website, and show our Friends Church generosity to those who have ministered to so many.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED & UPDATES, DEC 25-27:** The church office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec 25 for Christmas Day. Michael will also be on vacation from Thursday (Dec 26) and Friday (Dec 27). Please send him any updates for worship and marketing before the holiday.

**CHRISTMASTIDE REST FOR 9AM SERVICE, DEC 29:** The 9am worship service will not be offered on Sundays, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5. During Christmastide, join us for the 11am service in person or online.

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### Friends Church Staff

#### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)  
pastor@friends-ucc.org

#### Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)  
choir@friends-ucc.org

#### Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)  
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#### Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)  
pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org

#### Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)  
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