

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

December 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE
CHOIR CANTATA

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Liturgists: Greg Phillips and Ella Phillips

[CC] = closed-captioned

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Once in Royal David’s City”

GTG #140

Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood’s pattern;
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless;
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND
OPENING PRAYER

The Spirit and the church cry out:

Come, Lord Jesus.

All those who await his appearance pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.
The whole creation pleads:
Come, Lord Jesus. Come. Amen!

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

Candle Lighters: The Phillips Family

1 Corinthians 13:13:

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Love, the mightiest force in all the world, was also gentle enough to inhabit a tiny baby. And Jesus shows us how to love each other. We light the candle of love, which reminds us that when all else fails, love remains. And love wins. We light the candle of love, because love has come to us.

SONG

“Light A Candle Bright and Tall” (v. 4)
(tune of “For the Beauty of the Earth”)

Light a candle bright and tall
For a Love which knows no end.
Love that comes to one and all.
Fear and hatred to upend.
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Love, to us, we pray.

CANTATA

“Go Sing It on the Mountain”
(Pepper Choplin)

1. Rise, O People, and Bring Good News
2. A Child Is Gonna Come
3. Call His Name Jesus
4. Angel Band
5. Hush, Little Baby

Congregational Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

GTG #132

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven's door;
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

6. Go Sing It on the Mountain

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Hope for Resolution” (Caldwell & Ivory; video)

“In its juxtaposition of a European chant melody and an anti-apartheid song from South Africa, this piece is a celebration of diversity. The arrangement reflects our respect for divergent musical styles and points us toward our innate (though sometimes neglected) potential for peaceful coexistence.

The choir of Bellevue Presbyterian Church in Washington created this video to support their church's Congo Relief project, inspired by members of their congregation who had escaped the conflict there.”

PRAYER OF GENEROSITY

God of new beginnings, as we share our offerings with you, we leave behind fear and isolation, for we know our redemption is coming near. May our gifts be dedicated to help heal the brokenness of our world and to welcome our Messiah into the world once again. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

TFWS #2098

The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And they say that his name is Jesus.

Refrain:

*He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! Believer! Oh, yes! Believer!
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.*

The angels sang when the baby was born, (3x)
And they say that his name is Jesus.
Refrain

The shepherds came where the baby was born, (3x)
And they say that his name is Jesus.
Refrain

The Wise Men came where the baby was born, (3x)
And they say that his name is Jesus.
Refrain

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF DEC 22 – DEC 29

All meetings are via Zoom (unless otherwise noted).

All meetings are open to the members and affiliates of SJU unless otherwise noted. Members are encouraged to connect to, engage, and invest in the life and leadership of this Body of Christ, the church! Contact SJUColumbia@gmail.com if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

Sun, 12/22	8:30 am	CHRISTIAN APPLICATION
(Cantata)	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>) (<i>Liturgists: Greg Phillips and Ella Phillips</i>)
	11:45 am	HOLIDAY LUNCHEON & STAFF APPRECIATION (Room 18)

SJU OFFICE IS CLOSED FROM TUESDAY, 12/24 THROUGH THURSDAY, 12/26

Tue, 12/24	7:00 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming</i>)
Sat, 12/28	9:00 am	MEN'S GROUP
Sun, 12/29	10:30 am	WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person & streaming; automatic broadcast</i>)

2024 Donations

To be credited to your 2024 giving, your donation
must reach the office by **MONDAY, DECEMBER 30th**.

