

A stylized, colorful illustration of a nativity scene. The Virgin Mary is depicted in a blue robe with a green halo, holding the infant Jesus in a white swaddling cloth. The infant Jesus is shown with a white halo and a yellow robe. To the right, a king in a red robe and crown offers a gift. Other figures, including another king and a woman in a green robe, are visible. The background features a dark blue sky with a large white star and a green landscape with brown hills and a brown pot. The overall style is flat and graphic.

# Christmas Eve

Candlelight Communion Service

**Call to Worship**

Gaye LeBlanc, harp &  
Stephen Wurst, organ

**Welcome**

Rockford Johnson

**\*Carol**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; o sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

**\*Prayer**

7:00 Wendi Neal;  
11:00 Rockford Johnson

Leader: Gracious God of Light ...

In the name of the Child of Bethlehem, this is our prayer:

All: Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.  
Shine, Great Light, in the shadows of our lives.  
Burn gloriously like an eternal candle. Amen

**The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus** Luke 2:1-5

7:00 Trey Witzel;  
11:00 Scott Meier

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**Jesus Is Born**

Luke 2:6-7

7:00 Trey Witzel;  
11:00 Scott Meier

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

**Jesus' Birth Announced To the Shepherds** Luke 2:8-14

7:00 Wendi Neal;  
11:00 Rockford Johnson

**\*Carol**

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

**The Shepherds Find the Christ Child** Luke 2:15-20

7:00 Wendi Neal;  
11:00 Rockford Johnson



**\*Carol**

“What Child Is This”

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?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

**Offertory Prayer**

7:00 Wendi Neal;  
11:00 Scott Meier



All offerings go to the McFarlin Food Pantry. Scan the QR code to give or visit [www.mcfarlinumc.org/give](http://www.mcfarlinumc.org/give)

**Anthem**

Away in a Manger - Mack Wilberg

Chancel Choir;  
Libby Waldenville, flute

**Reflection**

“A Pointed Christmas Exclamation” Galatians 4:4-7

Rockford Johnson

**Christmas Eve Communion**

*Communion is served by intinction - lightly dip your bread into the cup. You are invited to kneel at the communion rail for prayer or return to your seat by the outside aisles. For those unable to come to the front, a server will bring the elements to you. For a gluten-free options, please ask a server.*

*All offerings left at the communion rail will go to McFarlin's Food Pantry.*

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.**

And so, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Sung) **Gloria! In excelsis Deo! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!**

... And so, ... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

(Sung) **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.**

... All honor and glory is yours, all gracious and loving God, now and forever.

(Sung) **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**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.**

**Carols**

“The First Noel”

The first Noel the angel 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.

Refrain: **Noel, Noel, Noel, 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. (Refrain)

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;

oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.



"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

"What Child Is This"

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?

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

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

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)

"Go Tell It On the Mountain"

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. (Refrain)

"Joy to the World"

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.

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.

**Unison Prayer**

On this holy night, we stand in awe of the light of the message of Jesus Emmanuel,  
born among us as God with us, who lived a life like our own, and showed us the way to you.  
Give us grace to live as Jesus lived, teach us to love as Jesus loved,  
that the glory of your love and peace might shine against the darkness. Amen.

**Special Music**

O Holy Night - Adolphe-Charles Adam      Kayley Williamson, soloist

**\*Carol**

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

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, shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

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!

