



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

Serving, Giving, Welcoming, Growing in the likeness of Christ

December 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE—FAMILY SERVICE

Streamed live at gilbertumc.org/resources/sermons/
Attendance Card at gilbertumc.org/attendance-card-prayer-request/

331 S. Cooper Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85233 • 480-892-9166
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Welcome!

Facebook streaming will begin at 5:55 pm • Service begins at 6:00 pm

Pre-service Music: "Away in a Manger" Jeff Hendrickson

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude "Jingle Bells"

Welcome Pastor Rick

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Koenig Family

Leader: Unexpectedly, the time came! The child was born!

People: The Savior of the world is here!

Leader: Unexpectedly, the angels told the shepherds of
the newborn Savior;

People: The Savior of the world is here!

Leader: Unexpectedly, the shepherds went and found the child,
lying in a manger.

People: The Savior of the world is here!

[Lighting of the Candles]

Leader: We wait for Christ to come again. We wait for Christ to
enter our world and our lives in a new way.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Song

“O, Come, O Come Emmanuel”

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us her ways to go. [Refrain]

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

4. O come, thou root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call. [Refrain]

Call to Worship

Maddy Paap

Leader: A light shining in the darkness . . .

People: What could it be?

Leader: The sound of angels' wings . . .

People: What could it mean?

Leader: The sound of angels' wings . . .

People: Who could it be?

Leader: Come to Bethlehem and see!

Opening Prayer

Maddy Paap

O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Prince of Peace,” and we are in awe.

You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love.

Touch us—touch our hearts and minds and souls.

May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted.

Make this night magical again. Amen.

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS THE CHRIST

Carol

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born 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 new born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

3. 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 new born King!"

First Reading

Nate Koenig

God sent the angel Gabriel to visit the house of Mary in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. She was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter who could trace his family back to King David.

“Do not be afraid, Mary” the angel told the startled girl. “God has chosen you for a very special honor. You will give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be called the Son of God, and His Kingdom will never end!”

Mary was filled with wonder. “How can this be? I am not even married!”

“Everything is possible for God,” replied the angel. “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and your child will be God’s own Son.”

Mary bowed her head humbly and said “It will be as God wills it”

And it came to pass in those days, the emperor of Rome ordered a census of all the people he ruled over. All the people throughout the lands ruled by Rome had to go to their hometown to be counted. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, the town of Joseph’s ancestor David. By the time they had arrived, they were tired and desperately wanted to find a room for the night, for it was clear that the time had come for Mary’s baby to be born.

But the town was filled to bursting. Every inn was full!

At last, an innkeeper showed them to a stable, and there Mary's baby was born. She wrapped him in strips of cloth, then laid him gently on clean straw in a manger. As the animals laid down to rest, Mary and Joseph looked down on the baby with joy, and named him Jesus, just as the angel had told them to.

Carol

“Away in a Manger”

1. 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.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Second Reading

Lily and Sam High

That same night, an angel appeared to some shepherds in the hills above Bethlehem. As they fell to the ground in fear, the angel said” Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be for all people. For born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Then the sky was filled with angels praising God!

When the angels left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem where they found the baby lying in the manger just as they had been told. And when they had seen him, they knelt before him. Afterwards they rushed off to tell everyone about this special baby and the wonderful news!

Carol

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

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

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

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

3. Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Third Reading

Maddy, Victoria and Abby Paap

In a distant land, Wise men have been studying the stars. When a really bright star was discovered shining in the skies, they followed it all the way to Judea, for they believed it was a sign that a great King had been born.

They went first to the court of King Herod and asked if he could show them the way to the baby who would be the King of the Jews. Worried, Herod called for his advisors and they told him that a Prophet had foretold that the new King would be born in this city of King David, in Bethlehem. Then the cunning King directed the wise men to Bethlehem saying, "once you have found him, come back and tell me where he is so that I can visit him too."

The wise men followed the Star to Bethlehem where they found baby Jesus in a humble house. They knelt before him and presented him with fine gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh before returning home. But they did not stop off at Herod's Palace, for God had warned them in a dream not to go there.

Thanks for sharing the Christmas story with us tonight. Please join us in this carol as we celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus.

Carol

“Joy to the World”

1. 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.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,

nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4. 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.

Offering Time

Sam High

As sages once brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we are invited to bring our gifts to the Christ child. Our gifts need not be shiny or big, for any gift lovingly given becomes a gift of light and love for the world.

Offering Music

"I Heard the Bells"

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace of earth, good will to men.

2. I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

3. And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

5. Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Offering Prayer

Lily High

With these gifts, O God, bring light to your people and love to the earth.
With our lives, shine light into the deepest shadows and help us to share your
love where it is needed most. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

Candle Lighting and Passing of the Light

“Silent Night”

UM Hymnal #239

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. 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.

4. 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 and Christmas Blessing | Postlude “Silent Night” (Reprise)

Join us ONLINE this Sunday
for a special service from the
Desert Southwest Conference

Lessons and Carols

Thank you for viewing services today!


If you have any questions or comments please contact us at connection@gilbertumc.org

CLERGY: Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Diamond Pate

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Randy Van Der Pol ORGANIST: Jeffrey Hendrickson

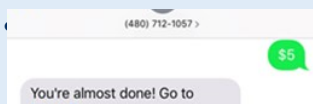
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