



Invited Home

Christmas Eve

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First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

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

December 24, 2021 | **10:00 pm**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Stream, Attendance, Prayer Request and Comment online at gilbertumc.org
Hearing-Assistive Devices, Large-Print Bulletins, Bibles and Hymnals are available from Usher

331 S. Cooper Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85233 • 480-892-9166
gilbertumc.org | facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert

Candlight Celebration!

Service at 10:00 | Masks strongly recommended

Pre-service Music: “Angels from the Realms of Glory/Once in Royal David’s City”

UM Hymnal #250 MUSIC: Henry J. Gauntlett | UM Hymnal #220 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Greeting

Pastors Rick and Diamond

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Prelude

“O Holy Night” *by Adolphe Adam*

Lighting of the Advent Candles and Response

The Mutach Family

People: Welcome Home.

Sung Response: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 6 *#211 Stookey; Coffin; Helmore*

***Call to Worship**

Jeff Carter

Leader: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

People: to carry Christ into this world.

Leader: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

People: to be a father to a child unlike any other.

Leader: The shepherds were invited—

People: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

Leader: The Magi were invited—

People: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

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

People: then we can trust that we too are invited.

Leader: This story is for us.

People: This love is for us.

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

All: It is a joy to be here.

***Opening Hymn**

“He Is Born” vs. 1, 3

#228

UM Hymnal #228 WORDS: French traditional MUSIC: translated by Carlton R. Young

***Opening Prayer**

Divina Katching

God of birth, God of light, in this time of song and prayer and silence, reawaken in us the awe of Christmas. As we hear again the story of a young woman and a surprising visitor, remind us that we are called to respond to you in unexpected ways. And when we leave this place, may we be willing to sing praises for a young woman who said YES and the birth that we prepare to celebrate. We pray in the name of the child who came to save. Amen.

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Carol

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” vs. 1, 2

#196

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1, 3

#230

The Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Carol

“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph” vs. 1, 3, 6

#215

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Carol

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” vs. 1, 3

#240

The Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs. 1, 3, 6

#234

Homily

Pastor Rick

Pastoral Prayer (Prayers of the People)

Offering

Offertory

“Breath of Heaven”

Jeannie High, vocals

CCLI Song # 1128784 Amy Grant | Chris Eaton © 1992 Clouseau Music Ltd (BMG)

***Presentation of the Offering** “Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow” **#95**

UMC Hymnal #95 Thomas Ken, 1674

***Offering Prayer**

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 Sacrament of Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Music during Communion "Wherever You Are"

written and produced by Barnaby Bright, produced by Nathan and Becky Bliss

*Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Sharing the Light of Christ "Silent Night, Holy Night" vs. 1-3 #239

As the flame is passed, please keep all lit candles upright.

To light your candle, tilt it to receive the Light from your neighbor.

Do not blow out your candle; please use the cup to extinguish it.

Please place unlit, used candles and holders in containers as you exit.

*Christmas Blessing

Postlude

"Angels We Have Heard on High" *Barnes/Lovelace*

Thank you for joining our 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: Jeff Hendrickson

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