



## First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

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

December 24, 2021 | 4:30pm  
CHRISTMAS EVE—FAMILY SERVICE

Stream, Attendance, Prayer Request and Comment online at [gilbertumc.org](https://gilbertumc.org)  
Hearing-Assistive Devices, Large-Print Bulletins, Bibles and Hymnals are available from Usher

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# *Family Candlelight Celebration!*

**Pre-service Music:** “Jingle Bells” | “Walking in a Winter Wonderland”

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome and Greeting**

Pastor Rick

**Bringing in the Light of Christ**

**Prelude**

“Friendly Beasts”

Jeff

**Lighting of the Advent Candles and Response**

The Ramirez Family

**People: Welcome Home.**

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Keegan Wilkins

Leader: A light shining in the darkness . . .

**People: What could it be?**

Leader: The sound of angels’ wings . . .

**People: What could it mean?**

Leader: A baby born in a stable . . .

**People: Who could it be?**

Leader: Come to Bethlehem and see.

**\*Opening Carol**

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

**#240**

*UM Hymnal #240 WORDS: Charles Wesley MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn*

**\*Opening Prayer**

Victoria Paap

Holy God, We’ve heard this story a million times— Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds. We’ve heard it a million times, but we want to hear it like it’s the first. So move among us. Circle back. Draw close. Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness. Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us with curiosity, joy, and hope. This is an invitation. Come be here with us. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

**\*Special Song**

“Five Little Fingers”

*by Stephen Hill*

## The Story of Christmas

*We will need your help in telling the story of Jesus' birth. When your character appears on the screen - please come forward. Our helpers will direct you!*

### Introduction

Sam High

#### Part I:

##### The Manger Scene

#1 Mary #2 Angel Gabriel #3 Joseph  
#4 Innkeeper #5 Donkeys

"Away in the Manger" vs. 1-3 #217

#### Part II:

##### The Shepherds

#6 Shepherds #7 Sheep  
#8 Angels

[CV1CV3CC](#)

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" vs. 1, 3

#### Part III:

##### The Kings

#9 Wise People

"We Three Kings" vs. 1, 5 #254

#### Part IV:

##### We Are the Faithful Storytellers

"Joy to the World" vs. 1, 2, 4 #246

### Offering

Keegan Wilkins

#### Offertory

"Carol of the Bells"

Nate Koenig

**\*Presentation of the Offering** "Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow" **#95**  
*UMC Hymnal #95 Thomas Ken, 1674*

#### Offering Prayer

Victoria Paap

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.

#### \*Sharing the Light of Christmas

Janelle Chiricuzio

*You are invited to break your glow sticks to activate them and raise as directed. Please join us in singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" vs. 1 (kids) vs. 2-3 (all) #239*

### Blessing

Pastor Rick

#### Music for Departing "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Thank you for sharing this special day with us. Join us afterwards for refreshments. Enjoy our live nativity and petting zoo! Merry Christmas!*

*Thank you for joining our services today!*

If you have any questions or comments please contact us at [connection@gilbertumc.org](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org)

## THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

LITURGISTS: Victoria Paap Keegan Wilkins

READERS: Lily High Sam High Ty Hemingson Zander Murphy Nate Koenig

MARY: Leona Metz ANGEL GABRIEL: Kylee Wilkins JOSEPH: Xavier Ouellette

CHRISTMAS STAR: Abby Koenig INNKEEPER: Matthew Koenig

HEAD SHEPHERD: Mason Ramirez

WISE PEEPS: Lane Ramirez Abby Paap Kwame Gardour

CHRISTMAS KID'S CHOIR:

Lily High Sam High Abby Koenig Matthew Koenig Nate Koenig

Leona Metz Harper Murphy Zander Murphy Abby Paap Victoria Paap

Landry Ramirez Lane Ramirez Mason Ramirez Kylee Wilkins

PIANIST: Nate Koenig

WITH: JACKSON VAN DER POL MELISSA VAN DER POL NATHAN VAN DER POL

CLERGY: Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Diamond Pate

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Randy Van Der Pol ORGANIST: Jeff Hendrickson

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR: Janelle Chiricuzio YOUTH DIRECTOR: Shayla Papp

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