



## First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

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

December 24, 2021 | 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

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

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# *Candlight Celebration!*

Service at 7:00 | Masks recommended | See [gilbertumc.org](http://gilbertumc.org) for livestream

**Pre-service Music:** “Angels from the Realms of Glory” | “Antiphonal Noël”  
*UM Hymnal #250 MUSIC: Henry J. Gauntlett* Bell and Chancel Choir

## **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 Butler Family

**People: Welcome Home.**

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

## **\*Call to Worship**

Samantha Mutach

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**

Kalia Carpenter

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.

<b>Anthem</b>	“Christmas Songs of Joy”	
<b>The First Lesson</b>	Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19	
<b>Carol</b>	“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” vs. 1, 2	<b>#196</b>
<b>The Second Lesson</b>	Genesis 22:15-18	
<b>Carol</b>	“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs. 1, 3	<b>#211</b>
<b>The Third Lesson</b>	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	
<b>Carol</b>	“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1, 3	<b>#230</b>
<b>The Fourth Lesson</b>	Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9	
<b>Carol</b>	“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 2, 4	<b>#230</b>
<b>The Fifth Lesson</b>	Luke 1:26-35, 38	
<b>Carol</b>	“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph” vs. 1, 3, 6	<b>#215</b>
<b>The Sixth Lesson</b>	Luke 2:1-7	
<b>Anthem</b>	“Sleep Little Lamb” Eric Butler and Jeannie High	
<b>The Seventh Lesson</b>	Luke 2:8-16	
<b>Carol</b>	“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” vs. 1, 3	<b>#240</b>
<b>The Eighth Lesson</b>	Matthew 2:1-11	
<b>Carol</b>	“We Three Kings” vs. 1, 5	<b>#254</b>
<b>The Ninth Lesson</b>	John 1:1-14	
<b>Carol</b>	“O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs. 1, 3, 6	<b>#234</b>

Homily

Pastor Rick

Pastoral Prayer (Prayers of the People) and The Lord's Prayer

\*Special Music

"Joy to the World"

Praise Band

Offering

Offertory

"What Child is This"

The Van Der Pols

*CCLI Song # 7050422 Chris Tomlin | William Chatterton Dix © Words: Public Domain*

\*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.

\*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](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org)

CLERGY: Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Diamond Pate

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Randy Van Der Pol ORGANIST: Jeff Hendrickson

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