



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

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

December 24, 2023 | 4:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE—FAMILY SERVICE

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

Family Candlelight Celebration!

Pre-service Music: *"Carol of the Bells"*

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor Rick and Pastor Adriana

Announce: 9:00am only Dec. 31st; Office Closed Mon. 25 Tue. Dec. 26; Jan. 1 & 2

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Prelude *"O Come Let Us Adore Him"*

Praise Band

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Murphy Family

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 6 #211

***Call to Worship**

Scott Hanson

Leader: Come, faithful watchers, and behold, your salvation is here!

People: We greet the Wondrous Light, our Messiah, Christ the Lord.

Leader: We have waited and watched, longing for God to show up and save us from the suffering and pain in our world.

People: We greet the Wondrous Light, the fulfillment of our shocking hope.

Leader: We have waited and watched, longing for peace to reign among us, a peace that removes unjust barriers, frees us from sin, and binds us together as neighbors, family, and friends.

People: We greet the Wondrous Light, the bringer of our just peace.

Leader: We have waited and watched, longing for joy that is persistent in the face of the grief, lament, chaos, and oppression that weigh on us day in and day out.

People: We greet the Wondrous Light, the source of our fierce joy.

Leader: We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love that transforms us, the Love that is now here among us, first as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher, a friend, and our Savior.

All: We greet the Wondrous Light, Love Incarnate who has come to save us and transform us. Amen.

***Opening Carol** *"Angels We Have Heard On High"*

Praise Band

***Opening Prayer**

Blakely Sandven

Leader: Emmanuel, God-with-us most of all tonight, your light lifts up our hearts, our spirits, and our voices.

People: We give thanks for your birth long ago and presence with us always

Leader: Your hope is more trustworthy than our prayers.

People: Your peace is deeper than our prayers

Leader: Your joy teaches us to sing even when we want to cry.

All: **Your love is wider than the chorus of the galaxies, and yet your Star shines on us now in this church which has become a manger. AMEN.**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:6 | Luke 2:1-21 Scott Hanson & Blakely Sandven

“What Child Is This?”—The Story of Christmas

Introduction

Janelle Chiricuzio

Opening Song

“What Child Is This?”

vs. 1

#230

Part I: The Manger Scene

Mary Innkeeper Joseph

“Away in the manger” J.A.M Kids Choir

Part II: The Animals

Animals except sheep

“Hark The Harold Angels Sing” vs. 1

Part III: The Angels

Angels

“Go Tell it on the mountain”

Part IV: The Shepherds

Shepherds and Sheep

“We three Kings” vs. 1 #254

PART V: The Wiseman

Stars & wise people

“O Come all ye faithful” vs 1 #234

PART VI: The Conclusion

Song

“Joy To The World” vs. 1, 2, 4

#246

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Rick and Pastor Adriana

Time of Offering

Matthew Koenig-“Rudolph” | Abby Koenig -“We Wish You A Merry Christmas” | Praise Band-“Little Drummer Boy”

*Doxology

“Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow”

#95

*Offering Prayer

Scott Hanson

Leader: God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light

People: We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune.

Leader: We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules.

People: We follow the fading light of personal salvation.

Leader: Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all the world.

People: Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another.

Leader: Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion, and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed.

All: In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen

***Sharing the Light of Christmas**

Janelle

You are invited to break your glow sticks to activate them and raise as directed.

"Silent Night, Holy Night" vs. 1,2,3

#239

Blessing and Dismissal

Pastor Rick

Music for Departing

"Silent Night" vs. 1,2,3

#239

Thank you for joining our services today!

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



LITURGISTS: Scott Hanson Blakely Sandven

READERS:

Kwame Gardour Kyle Hanson Abigail Koenig Nate Koenig
Abby Paap Lane Ramirez Mason Ramirez Kylee Wilkins

USHERS: Oliver Cantwell Smith Sandven

CLERGY: Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Adriana Hernandez

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Randy Van Der Pol **PIANO:** Marilyn Harter

PRAISE BAND:

Abigail Jo Rhoden Jan Casebolt Divina Katching
Samantha Mutach Israel Mutach Jack Van Der Pol
Melissa Van Der Pol Nate Van Der Pol Randy Van Der Pol

PIANISTS & KIDS CHOIR:

Matthew Koenig Abigail Koenig J.A.M kids choir

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR: Janelle Chiricuzio

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Shayla Paap

How to Give to First Gilbert

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