# AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Christmas Eve December 24, 2025 3:00 p.m. | 5:00 p.m. | 11:00 p.m. Paraments - White

\*Please stand as you are able. Please remember to turn off cell phones. **Vision Statement of First-Centenary United Methodist Church:** 

Build a healthy and diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ.

## **Gathering Music**

(3:00/5:00) Rev. Jason Gattis Invocation (11:00) Dr. Will Lauderback **Voluntary** Sleep, My Child, and Peace Attend Thee arr. Campbell (3:00)Joseph Seo, violin (5:00)On This Quiet Night M. Bober Abby Cunningham, solo arr. Rocherolle (11:00)The First Noel Jan and Jonathan McNair

\*Call to Worship (3:00) Mrs. Mimi Italia (5:00) Mrs. Emily Baker (11:00) Mr. Nick Gattis Leader: On this holiest of nights,

All: we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder. Leader: On this most silent night,

All: we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

Leader: On this night of carols and candlelight,

All: we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

Christ is born! Alleluia!

\*Hymn 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful (st.1, 3, and 6)

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle – Revelation**

3:00 Donnie and Kathy Reeves, and Cindy Stulce

5:00 Merrill, Gray, Manning and Kate Nelson

11:00 David and Annabell Harr

#### **Praver**

Lord, open our eyes to see the wonder of this night. Open our ears to hear the angel song. Open our hearts to welcome Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

Song: We honor Messiah with Christ-candle's flame, our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim. O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night, as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

**Anthem** (3:00) Carol Medley traditional Rebekah Archer, Daniel Seo and Joseph Seo (5:00)Still, Still, Still German Carol Anna, Margaret, Steve and Vallerie Greer

Were You There on That Christmas Night? (11:00)N. Sleeth James and Oliver Harr

**Ritual of Friendship and Announcements** 

Rev. Michelle Hunter

\*Hymn 251 – st. 1 & 3 (3:00 and 5:00) Go. Tell it on the Mountain As we sing, the children are invited to come to the Chancel steps for a story.

Time with the Children (3:00 and 5:00)

**Anthem** (5:00) Virgin's Slumber Song M. Reger Abby Cunningham, solo

> (11:00)'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime J. Middleton Bindy Lewis and Grant Morgan

(11:00) Rev. Greg Smart \*Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-14

Hymn 230 (st. 1, 3 and 4) O Little Town of Bethlehem (please be seated)

Sermon Wonder - Revelation Rev. Jason Gattis

**Song of Adoration** 

(3:00/11:00)What Songs Were Sung J. J. Niles

James Harr, tenor

(5:00)What Child is This? arr. Ritter

Katie Jo Gelasco and Pam Gelasco-Riggs

## **Invitation to Holy Communion**

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

We are not always prepared, O God, to receive the Christ child into our hearts.

We do not always look to see your light shining in the darkness of our world.

We are reluctant to leave our flocks behind and search for the glory you reveal.

Overcome our fear, Holy One,

and inspire us to sing with the heavenly host as we seek the Christ child this night.

Prepare our hearts, O God, to behold your precious gift in awe and wonder.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor: Do not be afraid! Hear the good news of great joy for all people: a Savior has been born this night for you! Glory to God!

All: Amen!

#### **Passing the Peace**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. (the Pastors continue)

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Sharing the Bread and Cup

Tonight's communion offering is for The Chattanooga Area Food Bank and Be the Change Youth Initiative

**Prayer after Communion** (in unison)

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### \*Lighting of the Candles

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.

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!

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.

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!

#### \*The Word of Joy

Isaiah 9:2 and 6 (NIV)

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

#### \*Hymn 246

Joy to the World

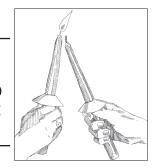
Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

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.

(For safety purposes, please extinguish candles before leaving the sanctuary, and place them in the boxes at the exits.)

#### Voluntary

For your safety and protection of the pews and carpet, we appreciate your careful handling of the candle. Please tip the unlit candle toward the flame of the lit candle to avoid spilling wax.



#### Also participating in the Services:

Dr. Jan McNair, Director of Worship and Music Ministries

Mr. David Patton, organist

Dr. Jonathan McNair, pianist

Acolytes (3:00) Caroline Culbertson, Oliver Harr, Brie Wallin, Sellick Wallin Additional Communion servers (3:00) Rev. Caroline Archer and James Harr Acolytes (5:00) Jillie Jackson, Norris Jackson, Norah Shears, Emily Tolar Additional Communion servers (5:00) Rev. Laura Shearer and Emily Baker, (11:00) Rev. Barry Kidwell

The Call to Worship was written by Rev. Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies. Posted on LiturgyLink. http://www.liturgylink.net/ The Advent Candle Liturgy was written by First-Centenary member Mrs. Cindy Stulce. The Advent Candle Song- One Candle is Lit: Words by Mary Anne Parrott, 1988. © 1995 Chalice Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702258. The Prayer of Confession is from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017. © 2016 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission. The Prayer after Communion is reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition. ©2013. Faith Alive Resources

### 2025 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

Please be sure your gifts are dated, received or postmarked no later than December 31st in order to be counted as a 2025 contribution. Always note in the "for" section of your check if the gift is for your 2025 or 2026 pledge. Don't forget our online giving is also available on our website. Go to www.firstcentenary.com/give. If you are transferring stock, or have any questions, please contact Karen Gates at 423-756-2021 ext. 0210 or email kgates@firstcentenary.com.

## THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED **ON DECEMBER 25 AND 26**

**REMINDER:** NO 8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE **ON DECEMBER 28TH** 

**PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY resumes January 14** 

## **NEW MEMBERS COMMENDATION**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

Congregation: We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to the First-Centenary congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

#### CHURCH STAF/F

**JASON GATTIS** WILL LAUDERBACK **BARRY KIDWELL** MICHELLE HUNTER CAROLINE ARCHER **RICHARD LOONEY CHARLES NEAL DAVID HARR** 

Senior Minister Senior Associate Minister Minister of Mustard Tree Ministries & Outreach Minister of Congregational Care Minister of Environmental Justice Bishop in Residence Minister Emeritus Minister Emeritus

**BRANDI ANDERSON** JIM ANDERSON **TORI CROOK ASHLEY DURHAM BRITTANY EASTRIDGE** MICHAEL EDWARDS KAREN GATES TROY HAMILTON **CLAIR HARRISON BINDY LEWIS** JANICE MCNAIR JONATHAN MCNAIR **GRANT MORGAN** MARY GREY MOSES DAVID PATTON KIRSTEN SHIPP RANDALL SHUPTRINE **TONIA TAYLOR ELLEN WARD** 

MAIL

ABIDE Respite Ministry Director Facilities Assistant Director Shouting Stones Youth Ministry Director **Facilities** Administrative Assistant, Ministry Support **Facilities Business Manager Facilities Director** Communications Director Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor Worship & Music Ministry Director Music Ministry Assistant Contemporary Worship Director The Centenary Director Organist fcCollege Ministry & The Wesley Director Multimedia Specialist Children's Enrichment Center Director First Kids Children's Ministry Director

For medical emergencies during worship services, contact the ushers. They will call 911. Defibrillator & Oxygen in see-through hallway cabinet near back of Sanctuary, where we hang our coats.



# **WAYS TO GIVE:**

**GIVING KIOSK** SUNDAY OFFERING **BANK DRAFT** 

ONLINE





**DECEMBER 24, 2025** 

3:00 P.M. | 5:00 P.M. | 11:00 P.M.



