

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
as those of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

Share His love by telling what the Lord has done for you
Share His love by sharing of your faith
And show the world that Jesus Christ is real to you
Every moment, every day!

TRINITY CHIMES

(Please remain in place at the end of the service until the conclusion of the Trinity Chimes)

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented in loving
memory of Pete and Linda Morey by Leslie, Aaron,
Gavin and Cohen Whitmore. All glory to God

GREETERS

8:30 Joe & Beth Kirk
11:00 Butch & Gail Gentry

ACOLYTES

8:30 Kyle Ham & Gavin Whitmore
11:00 Asa & Ayla Webb

Moravian Lovefeast & Candlelight Service

Join us this evening, December 7th at 6:00 PM for our Moravian Lovefeast
and Candlelight Service, a cherished tradition of worship, song, and Moravian
bread and coffee as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

Chancel Choir Cantata - Gloria!

On Sunday, December 14, our Chancel Choir will present the world premiere
of Mary McDonald’s compelling three-movement original work, a soaring
expression of praise to “God alone, the Author and Finisher of our faith.”
Gloria offers a vibrant and fresh contribution to the Latin sacred repertoire
and will be shared during both the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM worship services.

Kids Christmas Musical “The Uncertain, Poor Shepherd”

Join us on Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for our
Children’s Christmas Cantata, “The Uncertain, Poor Shepherd.” Come
celebrate the season as our kids share the story of Christmas through music
and drama, reminding us of God’s love and grace revealed to even the most
humble hearts. Bring your family and friends for this evening of worship!

Merrytime Community Orchestra Concert
Monday, December 15th at 6:00pm

Enjoy a beautiful evening of music as the MerryTime Community Orchestra,
under the direction of Felicia Sink, presents a Christmas concert. Celebrate
the joy and wonder of the Christmas season. All are welcome. Bring a friend
and come enjoy this wonderful community performance!

Christmas Caroling - Sunday, Dec 21st at 3:00pm

Sing the carols and share the joy of the season as we travel from home to
home. All are welcome. We will gather at the church just before 3:00 and
divide into small groups and drive in our separate cars to 5-8 houses per
group and sing! Fa la la la la la la la la...

Poinsettias for Christmas

Poinsettias may now be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. The
cost is \$20 per plant, and the deadline to order is December 10. These flowers
will fill our worship spaces throughout the Christmas season.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Hosted by Ayla & Asa Webb

Monday, December 29th from 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are
excited to support Ayla and Asa Webb as they host our upcoming Blood
Drive. They are competing for a Red Cross scholarship, and their eligibility is
based on the number of units collected at the December drive. Your donation
makes a difference, both for those in need and for these students.

Mike’s Farm Reminder - “Ho! Ho! Christmas”

Our trip to Mike’s Farm is next Thursday! We will leave the church at
12:00pm, enjoy a meal at 2:30pm, watch the show at 4:00pm, and end the day
with a hayride. Bring blankets, hats, and gloves. It will be cold!

Christmas Eve Services

3:00pm - The Rise Children’s Service
5:00pm - Sanctuary Children’s Service
7:00pm - Sanctuary Candlelight Service
11:00pm - Sanctuary Candlelight and Carols

First Methodist Church

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Reverend Sarah Williams
Associate Pastor

Reverend Patrick Whaley
Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care

Kim McCoury, Director of Communications	Sabrina Juarez, Facilities Manager
Shanna du Mont, Director of Children’s Ministry	Stefany Boyd, Office Manager
Phil Routszong, Director of Music	Sunnie Gail Ballou, Organist
Miranda Routszong, Assistant Rise Music	Fran Welch, Sound Tech



“WORSHIPPING PASSIONATELY, LOVING EXTRAVAGANTLY, AND WITNESSING BOLDLY”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING THE PEACE
PRELUDE

†CHIMING OF THE HOUR & INTROIT
†CALL TO WORSHIP

I sought the Lord, and He answered me;
He delivered me from all my fears.
Look to Him and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed.
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord and worship the God who brings peace. (Psalm 34)

†HYMN“O Come All Ye Faithful”No. 234

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin’s womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; [Refrain]

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; [Refrain]

†OPENING PRAYERUnison
Faithful God, From Bethlehem You brought forth the Shepherd who is our peace. Bring Your steady light into our troubled world and quiet our hearts in the strength of Christ, that we may walk in His peace and trust Your gracious care.Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ CreedUnison
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

†GLORIA PATRIUnison
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERUnison
THE LORD’S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever, Amen.

SCRIPTUREMicah 5:2-5
²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.⁵ And he will be our peace.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WORSHIP WITH TITHES, GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY“Still, Still, Still”Handbells
By McDonald

†DOXOLOGYNo. 95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTUREMatthew 1:16-25
¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah. Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of

David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

SERMONBrought to the Light: PeacePastor Patrick

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
(based on the service used at the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church)

CONFESSION AND PARDON
Merciful God, we acknowledge that we have sinned against you by our thoughts, words and actions. We have failed to love you and others with a Christlike love. We have turned away from your holy commands. We have fashioned idols in our own image. We have not lived generously with the poor and we have ignored the loving conviction of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us, Lord Jesus, Teach us to delight and rejoice in your law. Amen.

(The pastor offers words of pardon and assurance)

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 pastor gives thanks, remembering God’s acts of salvation and concludes:)

And so, in gratitude and praise to you, Father Almighty, we join our voices with the angels, archangels, and all the nations, surrounding your heavenly throne in the eternal song of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

(The pastor offers the words of institution, concluding:)

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts recorded in the gospel and revealed in your holy kingdom, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

(The pastor consecrates the elements and invokes the Holy Spirit)