

What Child IS This?

Christmas Eve
7:30pm
"The Babe"

GATHERING

Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes, we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on earth.

We Gather at the Scene

**What child is this who laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

candle lighting

**This, this is Christ the King
whom shepherds guard and angels sing!
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

***Prayer of Invocation**

**Here, at the nativity of your birth,
give us the courage to face this moment
with an humility and hope.**

**Open us to new understandings of
the unfolding story of your presence among us.
Show us the true meanint of the kingdom on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**We pray in the name of the Child,
the One Who Reigns in our hearts and lives. Amen.**

***Bring Him Laud Joyful to the World UMH #246**

Hymn by Isaac Watts; Tune: ANTIOCH by G.F. Handel

Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her king!
Let every heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth & 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.

Sharing Signs of Peace

PROCLAIMING

We open ourselves to the full story of Christ's birth, knowing that his story is the ground of our faith and the light for our path

Haste Haste!

The children gather for Small Talk.

**Be near us, Lord Jesus; we ask Thee to stay
close by us forever, and love us, we pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and make earth a heaven, where all have a share.**

Anthems Sweet Son of the Father's Love Chancel Choir

***We Hear the Story**

Luke 2:1-19

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city

of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, 19 and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The Word of God for the people of God: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

The Babe

Rev. Jon Snape

RESPONDING

Our faithful response is to praise God for this story of Emmanuel, God with us, even and especially in the midst of difficulty. For God is indeed with us even still.

***Carol**

What Child is This?

UMH #219

Hymn by William Chatterton Dix; Tune: GREENSLEEVES

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping,
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch
are keeping?

**REFRAIN: This, this is Christ the King
whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the Silent Word is pleading.
(Refrain)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh.
Come peasant, king to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
(Refrain)

We Keep Watch

a time of prayer as we prepare to meet Christ at the Lord's table.

Offering & Offertory

***Christmas Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!**

The Great Thanksgiving

see screen

Receiving Bread and Cup

Prayer After Receiving

***The Lord's Prayer**

SENDING FORTH

Just as our theme carol asks, “what child is this?” we too have come with our questions this day. We go into the world with answers of Good News, being the body of Christ through our words and deeds.

***We Ask, We Answer**

What child IS this?

This is the one born into a time when hope was hard.

What child IS this?

This is the one whose lowly status
would send a message of peace with justice.

What child IS this?

This, this is one who promises joy when life is difficult.

What child IS this?

This, this is the King of Kings
who shows us the way of true love for all people.

What child IS this?

This, this is the Babe whose Light spreads
through our lives to others and to the world

***Gospel Proclamation**

John 1:1-5

***Carol**

Silent Night

UMH #239

Hymn by Josef Mohr; Tune: STILLE NACHT by Franz Gruber

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, Loves 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

***Benediction**