

*\*Denotes to please stand as you are able.*

## PRELUDE

5:00 "O Holy Night" (Bock)  
10:00 "Silent Night, Holy Night" (Hustad)  
Justin Hanson, organ

## GREETING

Rev. Grace Phelps

Christ is born; give him glory!  
**Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!**

**Christ is now on earth; exalt him!**

O you earth, sing to the Lord!

**O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!**

## OPENING PRAYER

O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season  
when we celebrate the birth of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day  
and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us.

Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.

Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace,  
goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*CAROL 246 "Joy to the World"** (all stanzas)

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

5:00 Frank and Barbara Racy

10:30 Phillip and Angela Mathis

## BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Tim Carpenter

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Eve it is our duty and delight

to prepare ourselves to hear again  
the message of the angels,

and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,  
and see this thing which is come to pass,  
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture

the tale of the loving purposes of God  
from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption  
brought us by this holy Child;

and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

**(a moment of silence will follow each petition in this section)**

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,  
let us pray for the needs of the whole world and all his people;

for peace upon the earth he came to save;  
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;  
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold,  
the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn;  
the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children;

and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not,  
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us,  
but upon another shore and in a greater light,  
that multitude which no one can number,  
whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom,  
in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

This we humbly ask

in the name of the Lord Jesus whose birth we celebrate,  
the Word made flesh among us;

As we pray the prayer that He taught us to pray:

**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.**

## FIRST LESSON

5:00 Barbara Lakey; 10:30 David Caldwell

Genesis 3:8-19

*God announces the punishment for their rebellion  
to Adam and Eve, and that the seed of the  
woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

## \*CAROL 219

**"What Child Is This?"** (all stanzas)

## SECOND LESSON

5:00 Jan Sanford; 10:30 Yvonne Bryant

Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises to Abraham that by his descendant  
all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.*

## CAROL 230

**"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** (stanzas 1, 4)

## THIRD LESSON

5:00 Margaret Fleming; 10:30 Paula Dycus

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The prophet announces the future birth of a king  
to a people in darkness.*

## \*CAROL 234

**"O Come, All Ye Faithful"** (stanzas 1, 3, 6)

## FOURTH LESSON

5:00 Tom Rogers; 10:30 Tim Wallace

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

*The coming king will usher in a reign of justice for the poor,  
and peace for all of God's creation.*

## CAROL 249

**"There's a Song in the Air"** (stanzas 1&2)

## FIFTH LESSON

5:00 Lisa Rogers; 10:30 Kathy Wallace

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give  
birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

5:00 "All On a Starry Night" Chancel Choir

words by J. Paul Williams, music by J. Graham, J. Martin

Long ago on a starry night, love came down to touch the earth.

Blessing all with holy light at the Savior's birth.

Underneath a cloudless sky, angels sing a lullaby.

Words of peace to humankind all on a starry night.

Glory be to God in the highest. Peace and joy to all.

Come and worship, come and worship, wondrous is the call.

Shepherds heard the music from above,

falling like a gentle snow.

Filling all the earth with songs of love.

Long ago on a starry night, love came down to touch the earth.

Blessing all with holy light at the Savior's birth.

Underneath a cloudless sky, angels sing a lullaby.

Words of peace to humankind all on a starry night.

Silent night, holy night, all on a starry night.

10:30

**"Ave Maria"** (Bach / Gounod)

Solo: Catherine Phelps

Ave Maria, gratia plena, (Hail Mary, full of grace)

Dominus, tecum, (the Lord is with thee)

benedicta tu in mulieribus (blessed art thou amongst women)

et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

(and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.)

Sancta Maria, sancta Maria, Maria, (Holy Mary, Mother of God)

ora pro nobis nobis peccatoribus, nuc et in hora

(pray for us sinners now)

in hora mortis nostrae. (and at the hour of our death.)

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Tim Carpenter

Rev. Grace Phelps

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,

who earnestly repent of their sin

and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you  
with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will, we have broken your law,**

**we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,**

**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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.**

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere  
to give thanks to you, Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

You created light out of darkness  
and brought forth life on the earth.  
You formed us in your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed,  
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time, you gave your only son Jesus Christ  
to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory  
to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.  
As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem  
and there found no room,  
so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem  
and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable, Jesus was born,  
so by the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection,  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman,  
on that night long ago,  
so on the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you,  
gave it to his disciples and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts we offer  
ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory,  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit  
in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours,  
Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### **GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

**SIXTH LESSON** 5:00 Angela Clark; 10:30 Christie Caldwell  
Luke 2:1-7  
*Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.*

\***CAROL 224** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!" (All Stanzas)

**SEVENTH LESSON** 5:00 Russell Lindsey; 10:30 Keith Elzie  
Luke 2:8-16  
*The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.*

\***CAROL 240** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (All stanzas)

**EIGHTH LESSON** Rev. Grace Phelps  
Matthew 2:1-11  
*The Magi follow a star to find the child Jesus, the king of the Jews*

**CAROL 254** "We Three Kings" (st. 1, 5)

**NINTH LESSON** Rev. Tim Carpenter  
John 1:1-14  
*John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.*

\***CAROL 239** "Silent Night" (All stanzas) John Wallace, Guitar  
*During the singing of the carol, the pastor will light  
the ushers' candles. The ushers will pass the light  
to the congregation.*

\***BENEDICTION** Rev. Grace Phelps

# Christmas Eve

First United Methodist Church  
Covington, TN

5:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.



**Service of Lessons,  
Carols, Candles, and  
Communion**