

December 24, 2020

## **MUMC At-Home Worship: December 24, 2020**

*If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:*

Holy God, we have come to the day of your birth, and our hearts ring out with praise: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all! Amen.

**Hymn:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, United Methodist Hymnal #234 [watch/listen here](#)

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:1-20

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Reflect:**

1. The joyous song of the angels that first Christmas has become rather iconic: “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.” If you were to put your joy into words today, what song might you sing?
2. After seeing Jesus just as they had been told, the shepherds go out to tell others about what they had seen and everyone who heard it was amazed. What do you find amazing about the Christmas story? How might we share our amazement with others in the coming days?
3. Mary’s response to the overwhelming experience of that first Christmas was to ponder it all in her heart. How might we join Mary in pondering the wonder of Christmas?

**Hymn:** *Away in a Manger*, United Methodist Hymnal #217 [watch/listen here](#)

**Prayer Requests:** Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

### **Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn:** *Silent Night, Holy Night*, United Methodist Hymnal #239 [watch/listen here](#)

**Closing Prayer:** Loving God, we rest in awe at the glory of your coming. Give us the joy to sing your praises like the angels, the courage to share your story like the shepherds, and the hope to ponder your mysteries in our heart like Mary. Amen.

*(Blow out the candle)*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

United Methodist Hymnal #234

1. 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!

2. God of God, Light of Light eternal, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created,  
[Refrain]
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"  
[Refrain]
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
[Refrain]

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful" words and music are by John F. Wade, 1743 and are in the public domain.*

**Luke 2:1-20 Common English Bible**

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

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*Away in a Manger*

**United Methodist Hymnal #217**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet  
head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down  
where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the  
sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

*"Away in a Manger" music by James R. Murray, 1887, and  
is in the public domain.*

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

**United Methodist Hymnal #239**

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heav'nly hosts sing "alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!"
3. 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.
4. 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!

*"Silent Night, Holy Night" words by Joseph Mohr, 1818;  
music by Franz Gruber, 1818, both are in the public  
domain.*