

As we sing, let us join together to share Christ's light. Leave here tonight ready to share the joy and peacefulness of His light with the world.

*HYMN

Silent Night

Verse 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.

Verse 2:

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!

Verse 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

Verse 4:

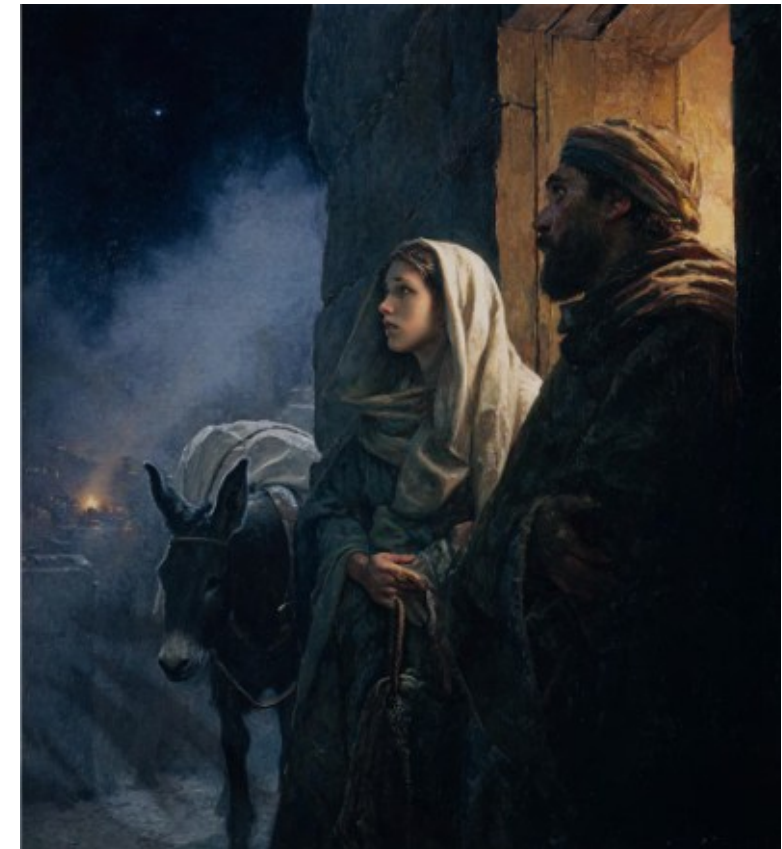
Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous Star, lend thy light;
With the Angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born!



AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, MAY HIS LIGHT SHINE ON YOU AND GUIDE YOU, HIS LOVE ENVELOP YOU, HIS JOY UPLIFT YOUR SPIRIT, AND MAY HIS DIVINE PEACE FILL YOUR HEART WITH LOVE AND SERENITY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AND THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR.



Growing disciples of Christ for the transformation of our community.



2201 Old Russellville Pike, Clarksville, TN 37040
931- 647-5126 | www.stbumc.com | stbumc@gmail.com
Pastor: Rev. Corrie Alexander-Willette

All Are Welcome As We Gather To Worship
Christmas Eve / Signs & Glory
December 24, 2025

PRELUDEO Holy NightMargaret Fisher

GREETING
L: Beloved, on this night, we gather to enliven the story once again of God who came to dwell among us as a vulnerable baby.

P: We rejoice in the day that all the earth awaits.

L: We remember the stable, the animals, and the manger that witnessed the arrival of Emmanuel, God with us.

P: We rejoice in the day that all the earth awaits.

L: We recall the angels who announced the Messiah's birth to the shepherds, those most unlikely witnesses of God's glory.

P: We rejoice in the day that all the earth awaits.

L: In our remembering and enlivening, we gather today as people of God's promise, witnesses to God's glorious presence among us in the vulnerable, forgotten, and tucked away places of the world.

P: We gather to rejoice in the day that all the earth awaits, the day that has already come and will yet be. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2025

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLEPlease see insert

*HYMNHark! The Herald Angels SingUMH 240

*HYMNAngels We Have Heard On HighUMH 238

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITHPlease see insert

*GLORIA PATRIUMH 70

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
It may seem naive, in a world of grief, to choose to live in joy; It may seem foolish, in a world where solemnity is power, to sing and dance to a different tune; It may seem cruel, in a world of suffering and injustice, to speak of light and celebration; But you have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief, light into our darkness, singing into our mourning; and it is an act of healing and proclamation to believe and embrace the joy you offer. Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Hallelujah! Amen.

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SPECIAL MUSICMary's Boy ChildKeith Simpkins

*SCRIPTURE READING
Luke 2:1-7
Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

HYMNAway in a MangerUMH 217

*SCRIPTURE READING
Luke 2:8-20
Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

SERMONRev. Corrie Alexander-Willette

HYMNO Joy to the WorldUMH 246

OFFERTORYThe First Noel
Congregation SingsUMH 245

*DOXOLOGYPraise God From Whom All Blessing FlowUMH 95

HOLY COMMUNION

Arrangements: Prelude by Fred Feibel; Special Music by Jester Hairston; Offertory by Jason Tonioli;
*Please stand as you're able in body or spirit

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

First Reader: Tonight, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:6-7).

All: We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.

Second Reader: We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.

— written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999, incorporating some lines from "Midwife of our lives" by Kathy Galloway published in Kathy Galloway (ed.) *The Pattern of Our Days*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 1996, p.138. Posted on Nettleton's Laughingbird.net website

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