

WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Christmas Eve, Children's Pageant December 24, 2025
Worship Service In-person and via Zoom 4:00 PM

Prelude – “In the Bleak Midwinter/Away In a Manger” arr. Perkins

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – “O Come All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1-4)

Call to Worship

What kind of hope can endure this world?

The hope and fears of all the years are met right here tonight?

How can we speak peace when the world is at war?

Tonight, there will be heavenly peace and mercy mild; God and sinners, reconciled.

Where is the joy of celebration when so many are hungry and hurting?

All heaven and nature sing; the weary world rejoices.

When will love come and save us?

The wonders of God's love are made flesh tonight. The angels sing “gloria,” and we have nothing to fear.

Opening Prayer

Dear God, Emanuel, we wait, believing what all your prophets told us is true: that your grace is sufficient and that your love will transform the world. We pray for the hungry, tired, sick, and for those in peril. Help us to lift our lights against present darkness.

We thank you for stepping into human form and dwelling among us. Guide us and keep us, Lord. As you step into our world again, may you find your people ready. Amen

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Christ Holly Cerullo, Roberta Stratton
“Christ, Be Our Light!” Farrell/arr. Raney

Unison Prayer

Dear God, we are often afraid. We pray for angels to deliver and comfort us. We long to hear spoken again those words of assurance, your messenger's commandment, “do not be afraid.” Empower us, by your grace, to live as those who long for our saving love. Amen

Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us be in silent prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Christmas Pageant - “'Twas the Night Before Christmas” Smiley

Act 1: Readers and Mrs. Mouse

Carol: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” v. 1

Act 2: Angels, Gabriel, and Readers

Carol: “Away in a Manger” v. 1

Act 3: Innkeeper, Reader, and Angels

Carol: “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” vs. 1&2

Carol: “Angels We Have Heard on High” vs. 1&2

Act 4: Shepherds and Readers

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-14

Carol: “Silent Night”

Act 5: Mrs. Mouse and Readers

Carol: “Joy to the World” vs. 1&2

Offertory Reflection

Offertory – “The Heavenly Star” Eliot

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, in this season of giving, we bring our gifts to you, knowing we can never repay you for the gift of your Son. Bless these gifts, that all who receive them may be touched by the peace of the newborn King, Jesus Christ! Amen.

Closing Hymn - “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Sharing the Peace of Christmas

Announcements

Benediction

At a time when hope was most needed, God sent Jesus into the world to instruct us, to make peace between us and God, and to heal us.

Christ, our Savior has come, and will come again!

Go from this place to spread the good news.

And God's people say: **Amen.**

Postlude – “Trumpet Fanfare on ‘Adeste Fideles’” arr. Rogers

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We extend a warm greeting to all who are attending our worship service this afternoon in person or on Zoom or watching later via a video link.

*UMH refers* to The United Methodist Hymnal (blue book)

*FWS refers* to The Faith We Sing (black book)

*WS refers* to Worship and Song (green book)

### **Today**

Acolyte – Jack and James Ruth

Lay Reader – Emily Weirich

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Reverend Geisa Matos

### **Cast of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas”**

Readers: Olivia Ciardi & Emily Weirich

Mrs. Mouse: Josephine Ciardi

Angels: Geila Machuca, Anisha Machuca, & Estelle Loiselle

Gabriel the Angel: Isabelle Ciardi

Innkeeper: Avery VonDerheide

Shepherds: James Ruth, William Weirich, Liam Wheeler, & James  
VonDerheide

Mary: Kaitlyn Fogg

Joseph: Jack Ruth

Donkey: Jonathan Ciardi

Cow: James Ciardi

Sheep: Jake Elmore