**Christmas Eve**

**Candlelight Service**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**Rev. Randy M. Brubaker, Interim Pastor**

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Crescentville UMC

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**DECEMBER 24, 2024 7:00 PM**

PRELUDE WELCOME

**\*GREETING** *Isaiah 9:6*

 L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

 **P: and the government shall be on his shoulders.**

 L: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,

 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

 **P: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**\*OPENING CAROL** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*  # 234

 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!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  *REFRAIN*

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*

**\*Lighting of the Christ Candle** *Hebrews 1:1-3a*

Jesus Christ is the Light of God!………..**A light no darkness can extinguish!**

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!..……….**Glory to God in the Highest!**

**\*Carol of Response** *“Sing We Now of Christmas”* # 237

 Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!

 Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.

 *REFRAIN:* Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

 Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

 Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest,

 journey forth to Bethlehem, find the Child so blessed.” *REFRAIN*

**FIRST LESSON**  *The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary* **St. Luke 1:26‑33**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

**CAROL**  ***“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”*** # 215

 To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came. “Fear not,” the angel told her,

 “I come to bring good news, good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.

 “For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all, who even now is with you. You are

 on earth most blest, you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blessed!”

 But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel’s word. What was the angel saying?

 It troubled her to hear, to hear the angel’s message, it troubled her to hear.

 “Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a Child. His name shall be called

 Jesus, God’s off-spring from on high. And He shall reign for ever, for ever reign on high.”

 “How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.” The angel answered quickly,

 “The power of the Most High will come upon you shortly, your Child will be God’s Child.

 As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words. “Behold, I am your

 handmaid,” she said unto her God. “So be it; I am ready according to Your word.”

**SECOND LESSON** *Jesus’ Birth Foretold* **St. Luke 1:34-38**

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**CAROL**  ***“What Child Is This”*** # 219

 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 Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. *REFRIAN*

 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*

**THIRD LESSON** *Mary and Joseph Go to Bethlehem* **St. Luke 2:1‑5**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

**CAROL** ***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*** # 230

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

**FOURTH LESSON**  *The Birth in the Manger* **St. Luke 2:6-7**

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**CAROL**  ***“There’s a Song in the Air”*** # 249

 There’s a song in the air! There’s a star in the sky! There’s a mother’s

 deep prayer and a baby’s low cry! And the star rains its fire

 while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

 There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful birth, for the virgin’s sweet boy

 is the Lord of the earth. Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,

 for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

 We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down

 through the night from the heavenly throng. Ay! we shout to the lovely

 evangel they bring, and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

**FIFTH LESSON**  *The Angels’ Song* **St. Luke 2:8‑14**

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

**CAROL** ***“Angels We Have Heard on High”*** # 238

 Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,

 And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

*REFRAIN:* Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

 Shepherd why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

 What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song. *REFRAIN*

 Come, to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;

 Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *REFRAIN*

 See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;

 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. *REFRAIN*

**SIXTH LESSON**  *The Shepherds’ Response* **St. Luke 2:15‑20**

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CAROL *“Angels from the Realms of Glory*** # 220

 Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;

 ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

 Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,

 God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:

 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

**OFFERING**

 ***OFFERTORY*** Solo By Edwina Paye

**\*RESPONSE**  *DOXOLOGY*  (TUNE: THE FIRST NOEL)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

## CHRISTMAS MEDITATION *“”*

\***SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING**

St. Luke 2:20—*“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God*

 *for all the things they had heard and seen,*

 *which were just as they had been told.”……*

**\*CAROL** ***“Away in a Manger”*** # 217

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

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.

**\*CAROL *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*** # 239

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, 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, 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, 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.

**\*SENDING FORTH AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTON*****“African Noel”*** Liberian Folk Song

Sing Noel, Sing Noel, Noel, Noel! Sing Noel, Sing Noel, Noel, Noel!

Sing Noel, Sing Noel, Noel, Noel! Sing Noel, Sing Noel, Noel, Noel!

Sing we all Noel, Sing we all Noel, Sing we all Noel, Sing we all Noel!

Sing Noel, Sing Noel, Noel, Noel! Sing Noel, Sing Noel, Noel, Noel!

Sing we all Noel, Sing we all Noel, Sing we all Noel, Sing we all Noel!

**\*POSTLUDE HALLELUJAH CHORUS**

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**\***The congregation standing, if comfortably able.

We welcome all of you to our service. On this most holy night, we are glad that you have come to worship with us. Please know that you are always welcome here at Crescentville Church.

**Without Christmas, there would be no Good Friday, there would be no Easter, and there would be no looking forward to Christ’s second coming. New life began at Christmas. And it’s the reason Christmas should be the time when we marvel at God’s goodness most of all.**

**From “Christ Changes Everything”**

**by John Greco**

 **As we come to the end of another year together, We thank God for you and for your support of the ministry of Crescentville UMC. A blessed Christmas to you! May Joy be your gift at Christmas and may Faith, Hope, and Love be your treasures in the New Year. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may His light illuminate your path and His peace fill your heart. Wishing you and your family a Christmas filled with heavenly blessings.**