

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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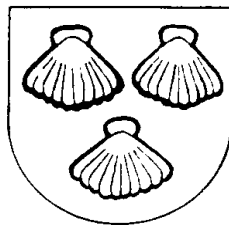


**December 15, 2024**  
**9:30 am**  
**Presence**

## ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj      |      Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark  
Director of Music Ministry: Antuan Hairston      |      Organist: Clarice Snyder  
Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



**Saint James United Methodist Church**

Marriottsville, MD

410-442-2020 [stjamessec@verizon.net](mailto:stjamessec@verizon.net)

**Prelude** "Creator of the Stars of Night" arr. by Wilbur Held **Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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**Welcome** **Rev. Patricia Abell**

**Threshold Song** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (vs. 1 of 4) **UMH 196**

1. Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

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**Call to Worship** **Nancy Janson**

Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity's greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

**What, then, should we do?**

Our world is also full of the fruit of God's love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God.

**What, then, should we do?**

God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel. What then, children of God, should you do?

**We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, and mercy. Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024.*

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

**Gathering Song** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (vs. 3 of 4) (not in hymnal) **UMH 196**

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
by His life He brings us gladness,  
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
born within a cattle stall;  
this the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

## Opening Prayer

**Nancy Janson**

**Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life is full of wonder and surprise. We pray you to make us watchful as we await the coming of Christ. Grant that we may not be found sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in your newness of life. Through the same Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

Written by Margaret Gay MacKinnon Godfrey in *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated*  
(Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2012), 5.  
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## \*Opening Hymn

“All Earth Is Waiting”

**UMH 210**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One<br>And the open furrows the sowing of the Lord<br>All the world bound and struggling seeks true liberty<br>It cries out for justice and searches for the truth | 2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel<br>A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel<br>For his name is God with us our brother shall be<br>With him hope will blossom once more within our hearts     |
| 3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain<br>Open new highways new highways for the Lord<br>He is now coming closer so come all and see<br>And open the doorways as wide as wide can be              | 4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared<br>Yet feel his presence throughout the earth today<br>For he lives in all Christians and is with us now<br>Again with his coming he brings us liberty |

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## Passing the Peace

**Nancy Janson**

## Children’s Time

**Tainya Clarke**

## Prayer of Intercession

**Nancy Janson**

**Response:** God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

## **Saint James Chancel Choir Christmas Story – The Birth**

### Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

#### Scripture

**Luke 1: 26-31**

#### Musical Offering

“Gabriel’s Message”

**Chancel Choir**

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Hymnal 1982 no. 265

#### Scripture

**Luke 1: 39-45**

**\*Congregational Hymn**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**UMH 230**

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

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**Musical Offering**

“Gesu Bambino”

**Michelle Chisolm and Antuan Hairston**

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**Narration**

**Congregational Hymn**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” **(Todd Butler, Trumpet)**

**UMH 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

2. True God of true God  
Light from Light Eternal  
Lo he shuns not the Virgin’s womb  
Son of the Father  
Begotten not created

**Chorus**  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

**Chorus**  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

3. Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above  
Glory to God  
All glory in the highest

## Chorus

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

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C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade

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## Angel Visits Shepherds

### Scripture

**Luke 2: 8-12**

### Musical Offering

“Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow”

***Michelle Chisolm, soloist***

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### Scripture

**Luke 2: 16-18**

### Musical Offering

“What Child Is This?”

***Chancel Choir***

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### Scripture

**1 John 4: 7-10**

### Musical Offering

“Love Came Down At Christmas”

***Chancel Choir***

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### Congregational Hymn

“Silent Night”

***UMH 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

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### Apostle's Creed

***UMH 882***

\*Please stand as able

**Scripture****Luke 2: 20, 14****Musical Offering**

“Rejoice”  
**Todd Butler, Trumpet**

**Chancel Choir**

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**Offering****\*Doxology**

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”  
 Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 Praise God All creatures here below  
 Alleluia alleluia  
 Praise God the source of all our gifts  
 Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts  
 Praise the Spirit Holy Spirit  
 Alleluia alleluia alleluia

**UMH 94**

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**Offering Prayer****\*Closing Hymn**

“Joy to the World” **(Todd Butler, Trumpet)**

**UMH 246**

1. Joy to the world the Lord is come  
 Let earth receive her King  
 Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
 And heav'n and nature sing  
 And heav'n and nature sing  
 And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

2. Joy to the earth the Savior reigns  
 Let all their songs employ  
 While fields and floods rock hills and plains  
 Repeat the sounding joy  
 Repeat the sounding joy  
 Repeat repeat the sounding joy

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow  
 Nor thorns infest the ground  
 He comes to make his blessings flow  
 Far as the curse is found  
 Far as the curse is found  
 Far as far as the curse is found

4. He rules the world with truth and grace  
 And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of his righteousness  
 And wonders of his love  
 And wonders of his love  
 And wonders wonders of his love

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**Benediction****Rev. Patricia Abell****Postlude**

“Joy to the World” arr. by Wilbur Held

**Offered by Clarice Snyder****Todd Butler, Trumpet**

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\*Please stand as able

### Questions for Reflection

Imagine that you are in the crowd listening to John the Baptizer. You hear people in the crowd asking him, "What should we do to prepare?"  
How might John instruct you, or your church, to prepare for the coming of God's reign?

Sometimes wealthy people worry that God or the church is requiring them to be poor.  
What is the difference between being poor and being fair?  
How do you feel about sharing?

### Household Prayer: Morning

God, surely you are my salvation.  
I begin this day without fear, trusting you, for you are my strength.  
Help me to meditate all day on the thought that you are rejoicing in me!  
And keep me keenly aware, as I travel through this day,  
of ways that I may help others, especially those with special needs.  
Then bring me home to you at the close of the day. Amen.

### Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for the gift of today and for guarding my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus.  
All that I did and all that I left undone, I now give over to your safekeeping,  
trusting in your peace that surpasses all understanding.  
Be my rest as I sleep tonight, and renew me in your love for another day. Amen.

### Resources:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press.

Come, Let Us Adore Him. Advent, Year C Worship Series. UMC Discipleship Ministries, 2024.

Gwyneth Walker's Rejoice (What Child Is This?, Love Came Down, Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!)  
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