

*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.*

(You are invited to carefully raise your candle during this last verse)

*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.*

***CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

(Please extinguish your candle after the blessing)

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Clergy Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler	Director of Music Jacqueline Stilger
Organist Bernie Foulk	Lay Liturgist Kathy Braginton

Audio/Visual
Casey Curran, Drew Eaton, Layla Eaton, Grace Johnson

Greeters
Dawn & Derek Wheaton, Steve & Chris Johnson

West Michigan Brassworks
Scott Thornburg and Johannes Stegmann, trumpet
Margaret Hamilton, horn
Nathan Musch, trombone
Robert Whaley, tuba

Tonight's Christmas Offering will be directed to four efforts.

- 1) Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), offering legal assistance to immigrants. Thank you for your support of our outreach efforts within our church, community, and the world.
- 2) Wesley Foundation and Campus Ministry at WMU. The Wesley Foundation is a United Methodist campus ministry open to all in the Kalamazoo community, including the students of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, and Kalamazoo Valley Community College.
- 3) Growing Hope Globally. Providing the agricultural training and tools needed to empower people to produce their own food.
- 4) Helping Our Neighbors - phone ministry project. This fund assists individuals with vital communication resources.

Thank you for your generous support!

LARGE print Bibles and United Methodist Hymnals are available at the Welcome Center or at the Park Street entrance.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the office. If you need assistance, please speak with one of the ushers. Please return hearing devices to the office following worship.

**Welcome to First United
Methodist Church!**

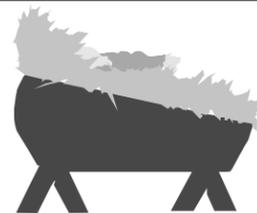
212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
www.umc-kzo.org

Our upcoming worship schedule is:

Sunday, December 26 Worship at home together. A home worship liturgy is available on our website, or at the Welcome Desk

Sunday, January 2 10:00 a.m. Worship
The 2nd Sunday of Christmas
Rev. Matt Weiler
The Risk of Incarnation
John 1:1-18

Have a Blessed Christmas!



We are a Reconciling Congregation

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all with *open hearts, open minds, open doors.*

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo
www.umc-kzo.org

December 24, 2021
9:00 p.m.



Celebration of Christ's Birth

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CHRISTMAS BELL

CALL TO CHRISTMAS *First Coming* by Madeleine L'Engle

*CAROL #234 (red hymnal) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH & CHRIST CANDLE

Clark Family

We light this candle for Christ.

On this night, we remember God has come in the Christ Child.

ANTHEM *We Shall Light 1000 Candles*

David Rasbach

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

Kathy Braginton

RESPONSE *Christ Be Our Light*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gather-ered to - day.

Words & Music by Bernadette Farrell. ©1993. Published by OCP Publications.
All rights reserved . Used with permission OneLicense A-717536

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Matt Weiler

ANTHEM *Glory to God*

G.F. Handel

THIRD LESSON Luke 2:8-20

Kathy Braginton

*CAROL #219 (red hymnal) *What Child Is This*

FOURTH LESSON John 1:1-14

Rev. Julie Kline

ANTHEM *I Wonder as I Wander*
Hannah Elandt, soloist

John Rutter

MESSAGE *Manger of Grace*

COMMUNION

All are welcome to the meal Jesus hosts. There is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one too old or too young; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. You, who are part of God's creation are welcome to receive Holy Communion this night by coming forward by the center aisle, taking a piece of bread and a cup of juice. Please pull your mask down to receive communion and then put it back in place, and put your cup in the basket at the end of the aisle. Gluten-free bread is available at each of the stations. There will be a communion station in the balcony.

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.
Now let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
How good it is to give thanks and praise!

... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(sung to the tune of Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might adored,
Heaven and earth are shining bright with the glory of your light.
Loud hosannas now we sing! In the highest may they ring!
Blessed is the coming One, Christ, Emmanuel, your Son.
Glory in the highest! Holy God, your name be blessed!**

... We proclaim the mystery of faith.

(sung to the tune of We Three Kings)

**Dying Christ destroyed our death. Rising Christ restores our life.
Christ will come again in glory, raising us all to life.
Oh, God of wonder, God of might, God of love, our hearts delight:
Feed us, guide us, walk beside us, bless us with our gentle light.**

SHARING OF BREAD & WINE

SOLO *Domine Deus*

Antonio Vivaldi

Carly Braginton, soloist

Lord God, heavenly King, God Almighty whose only begotten Son is Jesus Christ. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. One who sits at the right hand of God, hear our prayers and have mercy on us. For you alone are holy, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the Glory of God. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(praying together)*

Rev. Matt Weiler

God, giver of joy and grace, we thank you for meeting us here in the child born to save us. You have prepared us for our journey. The light of Christ, shining like a star, shows us the way we should go, and the ones we should serve. May our faces, lifted up in wonder and expectation, reflect that light for all who live in darkness. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY #246 (red hymnal) *Joy to the World* (v. 1 & 2)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(reading together)*

Glory to God in the highest heaven! We praise your name with our offerings and tithes. We give these gifts in recognition of Jesus, a tiny babe who from humble birth was created great in your light. Thank you, Gracious God, for pure, unbounded love wrapped in clothes laying in a manger — a gift so great to share that it could not be contained. Let the joy we feel in our hearts overflow in unending praise. Amen.

*SERVICE OF LIGHT *(all reading the bold)*

Jesus said, "I have come as a light into the world.

Whoever believes in me will not remain in darkness."

In Christ's name, I will light my candle. With Christ's strength, I will take it into the world.

(Light from the Christ Candle will be brought to the end of each pew. Please turn and pass the light to the person next to you, tilting only the UNLIT candle to avoid dripping and remain standing as the choir sings)

*CHORAL ANTHEM *Night of Silence*

Dan Kantor

*CAROL #239 (red hymnal) *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

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, shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar,

heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!