

Wesley United Methodist Church

December 26, 2021



Gretchen Nelson, Pastor
Sylvia Krisnow, Secretary

Jerry Sowers, Minister of Music
Cynthia Campbell, Accompanist

Members of Wesley, Ministers

**The Vision of Wesley United Methodist Church is to serve
all people with the love of Jesus Christ.**

Order of Worship – 10:00 A.M. Service

Preparing Your Home & Heart for Worship

Create a space that brings reminders of God's presence. Candles. Gifts, Colorful pictures. Fill your space with visuals for Christmas. Ask everyone in your home for suggestions. Before the gathering time: play music, turn off devices not used for worship, start to pay attention to your breath as a gift from God. Pray.

Gather and Spend Time with God Together—Acts 2:46
“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts...”

Welcome and Orientation

Gathering Centering Music—*Let the music fill your hearts and spirits becoming aware of God welcoming you in love.*

Call to Worship

One: God is telling a story in our lives.

Many: **It's quite a story-full of the promises God makes and our struggles to trust;**

One: full of mystery and angels with surprising news;

Many: **full of hard endings and unexpected new beginnings.**

One: Come, hear the story pay attention to the angels' message

Many: **in our heart in this place and time.**

One: Then join all creation in worshipping the God who tells it full of grace and truth;

Many: **who comes in Jesus, the Word made flesh, and makes our story holy.**

Opening Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” UMH 224

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Christmas Begins

Glory Sightings

Witness to God's faithfulness and love in the world. You are invited to share where have you witnessed good news. Raise a hand, write in the Facebook Comments, add into Zoom Chat.

Christmas Caroling—Request your favorites. In *Hymnal* beginning on page 216 and *Faith We Sing* page 2093

Proclamation and Response

Gospel Reading – Part One

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” **15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: We come to adore you, little one. On bended knee, with hopeful heart, and eyes stretched wide with wonder and awe. The gentleness of your gaze draws us into the mystery of all that lies beyond, and in that place of falling into joy we yield all that we are to you.

ALL: And we pray.

**For those who are broken,
Those who seek,
The trembling and the rumbling tummies,
The haggard spirits and the ragged lives.
For those who cling to the last best thing,
and those whose hearts pine for love.
Bless us, O Lord, whom we adore,
and turn our faces ever toward you.
For peace,
for mercy,
for the sake of all that is holy.
We come to adore you, O Christ.**

Psalter

Psalms 148

UMH 861-862

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**4 Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

**5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.**

**6 He established them for ever and ever;
and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, sea monsters and all deeps,

**8 fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

10 Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!**

12 Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

**13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
whose glory is above earth and heaven.**

**14 God has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his
faithful ones, for the people of Israel who are near their
God. Praise the Lord!**

Special Music

Christmases Past Gospel Reading – Part Two **Luke 2:21-51**

²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

Christmas Reflections

Christmas Caroling

Covenant Response – Sabeel Liberation Theology Centre (Jerusalem), Shine On, Star of Bethlehem

Reader 1: On Christmas

Reader 2: Hatred will vanish

Reader 3: On Christmas

Reader 4: The earth will flourish

Reader 1: On Christmas

Reader 2: War will be gone

Reader 3: On Christmas

Reader 4: Love will be born

Reader 1: When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person

ALL: it is Christmas

Reader 2: When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love

ALL: it is Christmas

Reader 3: When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes

ALL: it is Christmas

Reader 1: When the spirit of revenge dies in me

ALL: it is Christmas

Reader 2: When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart

ALL: it is Christmas

Reader 3: When I am buried in the being of God

ALL: it is Christmas!!!

Break Open Our Hearts with Prayer

As we share in prayer today you are encouraged to pray aloud your joys and concerns. Complete your prayer with "Lord, in your mercy" and all the people respond "Hear our prayer". Write your prayers in the Chat or Comment feed. Also please email them to the church office so the Prayer Team may continue to pray with you during the week.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing Christ's Peace

This is your opportunity to practice witnessing God's shalom. Cross your arms or press hands together at your heart, bow to one another while keeping eye contact. Offer this or similar greeting: "The Christ in me greets the Christ in you. Abundant peace." Use your social media and texts to send Christ's peace out into the world.

Offering

Giving is a spiritual practice of our faith. Sharing God's Good News through mission and ministry together through your covenant tithe, pledge, and offering with God. Consider healthy ways to be in service with your gifts and skills.

Musical Offering

During this musical act of praise, you are encouraged to praise God with your gifts. Wherever you are -- lift up your hands, sway, dance, let the spirit of God move you. (on screen or off).

Doxology

Christmas Doxology

Thanksgiving and Communion

Invitation to Christ's Table

The Great Thanksgiving for Christmas

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

ALL: Amen.

Sharing and Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Praise God Following Jesus into the World

Commissioning Hymn “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” UMH 251

[Refrain] Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev'rywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

[Refrain]

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

[Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

[Refrain]

Announcements/Action Steps

How shall we live as disciples this week? Highlights from the bulletin, newsletter, website, and emails. Please take time to read them all throughout the week for discipleship opportunities.

www.hamptonwesley.org

Blessing and Commission

One: Let the love that shaped earth and heaven

ALL: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: Let the love that created humanity

ALL: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred

ALL: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones

ALL: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: Let the love that forgives and renews

ALL: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation

ALL: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: Let the love that brings the blessing of peace

ALL: dwell within us this Christmas.

One: And may we share that peace

ALL: with all people near and far. Amen.

Singing and Sending

Fellowship - Online, Fellowship Hall, and Outdoors.

Prayers and liturgies today: Christine Jerrett.

<https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/> Anne Fraley, rector of St. Peter's

Episcopal Church in South Windsor, CT. <https://revgalblogpals.org/>

United Methodist Book of Worship All music used within CCLI#752546

Remember in our Prayers

Concerns: Todd Stern, Jonnie Sowers, Dave McKinney, Jeff and Laura Moore, Barbie Holland, John M, Nancy Companion, Jeff Birdsall, Sheree Yoder, Joseph Gilday, Bridget Norris, Joe Brookman, Margaret Cooper, Ed Robertson, Michael McPhail, Lucy Stowe, Betsy Pinder, Mason Allen, Kath, Kenny Crocker, Eli Sweeney, Don and Pat Brookman, Mike Mee, Patty Bumgarner, Crystal Radford, Grace Burnell, Freta Lamb, Joella, Abby, Bill Mee, Zach Perkins, Caleb Coates, Zeb Cope, Pete Stone, Karen Bowers, Kevin Lykins, Joe Ames, Nina Winfree, Ben Stanley, Susan Nichols, Buddy Carlisle.

Other Concerns: The Coronavirus; the tragedies occurring in our country and around the world; police officers and first responders; all who are grieving; our seniors; our church and the United Methodist Church; recovery from addiction; young adults needing a closer walk with Christ; those awaiting test results; healing for those in pain.

Nation and World: Our nation, leaders, military, deployed troops and their families.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan

Birthdays/Anniversaries: 12/27 Cynthia Campbell



The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Maricel Arus in memory of her mother, Marina. “Her life was a blessing to our family and she will live in our hearts forever.”

Announcements

HELP Food Pantry Update: Food Pantry needs: Dried beans, juice, powdered milk, canned vegetables (please no green beans or corn—there is an abundance of both), cereal, pork and beans, Ramen, instant potatoes, jelly, canned fruit, canned meats (like Spam and Vienna Sausages), canned pasta meals, crackers, rice, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, snack items (single-serve snack packs), bottled water, toilet paper, soap. The donations are delivered monthly. Contact person: Sherry Moore

Scriptures for 2 January: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

As of 26 December 2021

Sun.	26	9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service – In-Person, Zoom or Facebook
Mon.	27	
Tues.	28	9:30 AM Chair Yoga – *FH 6:30 PM NA Meeting – *FH
Wed.	29	
Thurs.	30	9:30 AM Chair Yoga 5:45 PM Men’s Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice
Fri.	31	
Sat.	01	New Year’s Day
Sun.	02	9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service – In-Person, Zoom or Facebook

*FH=Fellowship Hall

Worship Support

Laity	26 December 10:00	2 January 10:00
Fellowship	Sharon Howell	TBD
Ushers	Ray/Sylvia Krisnow	Chris/Anne Companion
Counters	Mary Saylor/Clyde Gumbert	TBD
Flowers	Poinsettias/Maricel Arus	Lynnette Scalzi
ATTENDANCE	Dec 19---49 In-Person/2 Zoom/35 Facebook	
OFFERING	Received: \$2,249.00 - Needed each week: \$4,878.00	

Secretary Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

Phone: 757-838-3044; **Address:** 2510 N. Armistead Avenue,
Hampton VA 23666-1506;

Pastor Gretchen Nelson: Cell Phone 804-896 -6785; email:
gretchannelson@vaumc.org