

## Christmas Eve Service of Worship

December 24, 2021

7:00 PM

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Prelude “Carols of the Stable” Broughton

Bells: “Angels We Have Heard on High”, “The First Noel.”  
Judy Simpson and Jan Anderson

Greeting and Announcements

Hymn “Joy to the World” 246:1,2,4

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.

**People: and on earth peace, good will toward all.**

Leader: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that will be to all people.

**People: Glory be to God on high.**

Leader: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles Ella Nelson  
Music “Away in a manger” Murray

May we know the truth of your love on this Holy Night, O God. Fill us with the glow and warmth of Christmas. Help us worship in Spirit and in Truth, O Way of Life. Amen.

### Hymn Sing

*(Choose a hymn and we'll sing the first verse. Christmas hymns can be found in the Hymnal from 214-251)*

### Prayer

Choir Anthem “Sing Noel” Larson

Scripture Luke 2.1-14

Sermon “Be Not Afraid” Pastor John

Solo “O Holy Night” Ruthie Nelson

### \*Candle Lighting

The ushers will light the candle of the person next to the aisle. The lighted candle always stays upright. Tilt the unlit candle to light it. Then the next person in the row tilts their candle to light theirs from the lighted one. While the congregation is lighting their candles, the choir will sing “Stille Nacht” (“Silent Night” in German as originally written). Once all the candles in the congregation have been lit, Ruthie will turn around and lead the entire congregation in “Silent Night”. Everyone will exit singing it.

\*Carol “Stille Nacht” (Silent Night in German) 239  
“Silent Night” in English



\*please stand as you are able

## Luke 2.1-14

### *Jesus' birth*

2 In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. <sup>2</sup> This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. <sup>4</sup> Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. <sup>5</sup> He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

### *Announcement to shepherds*

<sup>8</sup> Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. <sup>9</sup> The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. <sup>11</sup> Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*WELCOME TO FIRST UMC...WHERE EVERYONE IS FAMILY!** Wherever you have come from and whoever you are, we're glad you are here. If you are visiting this evening, please fill out one of the guest info cards and drop it in the offering plate. If you are searching for a faith community to call "home" we hope you will consider us!

**\*UMW Executive Board** will meet at 1:00 PM on December 28 in Henderson Hall.

**\*Wednesday Morning Bible Study** is cancelled this week. See you next year!

**\*CRAFTING GROUP**—No meeting this week. Next get-together 1/3/22, 12:30-3pm

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEW PORT RICHEY



Pastor, John Griswold  
Music Director, Ruthie Nelson; Accompanist, Faye Monroe

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