

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Prelude In Dulci Jubilo Arr. Hal Hopson

Choral Introit

A Great and Mighty Wonder

Chancel Choir

German Melody

Welcome

† **Opening Music**Angels from the Realms of Glory
UMH 220

1. 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:

Refrain Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:

Refrain Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Refrain

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

Refrain

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

O come, thought Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Blessing for Children

Prayers of the People

A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying. A time of silence will indicate when you may share one name or very short phrase to add.

Pastoral Prayer

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 tresspasses, 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.

Choral Response

O Holy Night Chancel Choir Adolphe C. Adam

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 1:39-45 (CEB)

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Scriptural Response

Liturgist: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem Grown-Up Christmas List Foster/Jenner

Message The Blessing of Home Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response in the World

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Christmas Songs arr. Zishan Ding

† **Doxology** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 94

Confession, Assurance, and Peace - Liturgist

All: It is hard to wait patiently, O God, for the gift of your promised salvation. We long to nurture the joyous expectation that Mary and Elizabeth discovered in their greeting, but we have grown accustomed to living with disappointment. We yearn to feel our hearts leap within us as your Spirit stirs our slumbering souls, but we have allowed ourselves to find solace in lesser things. Fill us with your grace, that we may give birth to hope and joy, and that we may abide in your peace and love.

Liturgist: Do not let your hearts be troubled. God will not fail to lift you out of complacency and fill your hearts to overflowing. Rise in joy and hope, for God's promises are sure, and Christ's salvation is at hand. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Music It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;

above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

 And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,

look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

4. For low! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold

when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Benediction

Postlude Rondo John Bull

Liturgist: Cindy Rushing **Organist:** Bob Wuertz

Pianist: Zishan Ding, Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Gail Chatfield, Betsy Witt, JanetLind **Audio Visual Team:** Dave Flores, Emilio Valente, Cam Rhodes

† Indicates for those who are able to stand in body or in spirit Liturgical elements from Abingdon Worship Annual

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Derek Nguyen, Pastor of Spiritual Development; Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Administrative Assistant; Joyce Drozda, NS & Church Accountant; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director; Bridget Musante, NS Executive Director