



*Nativity, Federico Barroci
Oil on Canvas, Italian, 1597*

Christmas Eve

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

December 24, 2024

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DECEMBER 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

We greet you this Christmas Eve! From wherever you come, we are so grateful that tonight you chose to celebrate the Good News of the Nativity with us!

PRELUDE *Pastorale on 'In the Bleak Midwinter*
(Michael Fontana)

INTROIT *Unto Us a Child is Born* Sanctuary Choir
(Traditional)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth, peace, goodwill to all people.

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

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

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all people!

So come, let us adore him;

come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High* UMH 238 (red book)
(verses 1-3)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Ted Loder, adapted

Lord God, in the deepest night there rises the star of morning,
of birth, the herald of a new dawn you are bringing,
a day of great joy, announced in faint shafts of light and love.

**We hear whispers of peace in the stillness, fresh breezes
of promise stirring, winter sparrows chirping of life,
a baby's cry of need and hope – *Christmas!***

In the darkness we see the light and find in it comfort, confidence, cause for celebration,
for the darkness cannot overcome it;

**we rejoice to kindle it in ourselves, in other people, and in the world
for the sake of the one in whom it was born and shines forever,
even Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

As the reader concludes, the people sing:

**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!
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-7 (58 NT)

ANTHEM

On Christmas Night
(Paul Manz)

Sanctuary Choir

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:8-18 (58 NT)

MESSAGE

Waiting Room

Rev. Dave Rochford

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS 2024

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

OFFERTORY

In Dulci Jubilo
(Dietrich Buxtehude)

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 (red book)

**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!**

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

text by Rev. Beth Quick; tune of "*What Child Is This*"

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.

We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.

**Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

God breathed in us the breath of life. God gave the gift of Eden.

We turned away and sin was born; we sought for greener gardens.

**Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

God called to us from age to age through messengers and prophets,
when we would not our hearts give way, the Word-made-flesh God sent us.

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, come to live among us!
He preached good news: the kingdom come! A light shone in the darkness.

**Nails, spear shall pierce Him through! The Cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

And on the night he was betrayed, Christ took the bread and broke it.
Then thanking God, he shared this gift. "Remember, when you eat it!"

**Nails, spear shall pierce Him through! The Cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

He took the cup and raised it up. "My life I pour out for you.
From sin, set free! Remember me! We covenant anew."

**Nails, spear shall pierce Him Through! The Cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.
Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!

**Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (red book)

**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.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Those who prefer to remain in the pew may do so; an usher will bring elements to you when the time comes. Those wishing to come forward may either stand or kneel as they receive bread and juice, pray and then return to their seats by the side aisle. Finally, persons requiring gluten-free elements may obtain these both at the rail or from our ushers in the pew.

COMMUNION MEDITATION *(Please join in the singing:)*

HYMN 217 *red book* *Away in a Manger*

HYMN 228 *red book* *He Is Born*

HYMN 229 *red book* *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

HYMN 230 *red book* *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

HYMN 242 *red book* *Love Came Down at Christmas*

SHARING OF THE LIGHT *(please be careful to keep your lit candle upright)*

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239 (red book)

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.**

**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.**

**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!**

*BLESSING

*SENDING CAROL

Joy to the World

UMH 246 (red book)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World
(Alfred Fedak)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Worship Leaders: Dave Rochford, Meghan Roth Clayton, Troy Sims

Director of Worship Arts: Lou-Anne Smith

Organist: Tom Marshall

Readers 7:00: Donna Herman **9:00** Virginia Morgan

Acolyte 7:00: Taylor Anne Mason **9:00** JD Tressler

Greeters 7:00: Linda Logerwell, Barbara Neary **9:00:** Marilyn Casey, Nancy Fazzone

Ushers: 7:00: Janet Henke, Russ Henke, Mike Johnson, Monty Mason, Cynthia Garman-Squires, Dan Squires **9:00:** Walter Hall, Bonnie Knizatko, Barbara Monteith, Marty Monteith, John Tressler, Clark Wallace

Communion Servers 7:00: Betsy Harrison, Karen Red, Jenn Staggs, Ryan Staggs

9:00 Betsy Harrison, Gwen Hinton, Susan Jones, Karen Red

Sound and Livestream 7:00 Todd Lindley **9:00:** Jimmy McCarter, Josh Clayton

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Poinsettias may be picked up after the 9:00 p.m. service or after services on Sunday.

Our church office will observe the Christmas and New Year Holiday from Wednesday, December 25 through Wednesday, January 1.

Our building will remain open for sponsored groups via assigned access codes.

Those with a pastoral emergency may contact Pastor Dave Rochford through December 28, and Pastor Meghan Roth Clayton after.

On the Cover: For his "Nativity," Italian Renaissance painter Federico Barroci depicts a tender moment between mother and newborn child. Mary is illumined by light that comes from the infant Christ, and she appears to embrace it with gratitude. At left, Joseph welcomes dumbfounded shepherds at the door, pointing them to the Messiah. At right, an ox and a donkey survey the scene, looming over their repurposed feedbox as if waiting. Straw lies everywhere, trailing down from a hayrack; an errant piece above Mary's head conjures a halo, which would have been characteristic of late 16th-century religious art. Barroci, however, favored the depiction of intimate encounters between ordinary people and the Divine. Indeed, the diagonally-structured composition of the scene seems almost claustrophobic, and was considered quite controversial in its day.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Barbara Blanton, *Finance Manager* (x106)
Josh Clayton, *Digital Media Specialist* (x107)
Meghan Roth Clayton, *Pastor of Congregational Care* (x114)
Zach Griggs, *Family Ministries Coordinator* (x109)
Thomas Marshall, *Organist* (757 713-0584)
Mike Motes, *Temp. Bookkeeper* (x116)
Laura Pittman, *Director Kid's Morning Out* (x113)
Nancy Reynolds, *Administrative Assistant* (x104)
Dave Rochford, *Lead Pastor* (x110)
Michelle Roy, *Dir. of Congregation & Community Engagement* (x103)
Troy Sims, *Minister of Discipleship* (x108)
Lou-Anne Smith, *Director of Worship Arts* (x105)
Rick Viancour, *Facilities Manager* (x101)
Anthony Williams, *Assoc. Dir. of Worship Arts, Dir. Early Childhood Music* (x115)
Ryan LaRock, *Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation* (757) 229-6832

WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

500 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 757 229-1771

www.williamsburgumc.org "Like" us on Facebook



Merry Christmas

from our

WUMC Staff and Pastoral Team



Welcome to Williamsburg United Methodist Church

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF WUMC?

Speak with any of our Pastors, Revs. Meghan Roth Clayton, Dave Rochford or Troy Sims, after the service or call 757 229-1771. They will be delighted to get to know you.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Live streaming of worship... will be available each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/worship/livestream-services>, and the recorded service will be available at <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/worship/sunday-worship> by mid-afternoon Sunday. Upon entering the Sanctuary, understand that we are posting images to our media platforms. If you are uncomfortable with this, please let the ushers know you need to sit in an area away from camera angles. We are happy to accommodate!

Assisted Listening devices... are available from the ushers. Those with a "*t-coil*" switch in their hearing aids can simply activate the switch. Please advise an usher if you have this need.

Need a Quiet Place During Worship? The Den, located behind the Sanctuary, is open as a quiet place during Worship. It's equipped to watch worship livestream, has a partitioned feeding area and a diaper changing station for parents and caregivers.

Nursery Care is available for Pre-K and younger in Room 207. Our trained and background- checked care providers are ready to welcome your little ones during Worship and Sunday School.

CLASSES, GROUPS, AND BIBLE STUDY...

Please see the church website at www.williamsburgumc.org for a variety of choices. These are conducted both in person and by Zoom. We are always eager to welcome guests and new friends.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church held every second Tuesday, 5:30–7:30 p.m. This is an all-age worship experience that includes crafts, games, Celebration Time and dinner. Questions? Contact Zach Griggs

FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are committed to walking alongside families of all kinds on the lifelong journey of faith. Children are invited to grow in relationship with God and each other through Messy Church, Children's Worship, and fun fellowship events. Youth meet weekly on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. to have fun, engage current events theologically, respond creatively to scripture, and imagine how God is calling them to mission. Resources are available for parents and caregivers, and Zach would love to talk with you anytime about the joys and challenges of family life. Contact Zach at zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org to learn more. Interested in Youth Choir? Contact Anthony Williams awilliams@williamsburgumc.org

PRAYER

Contact the church office to speak to a pastor or submit a prayer request via the church website. Prayer concerns will be added to the prayer chain if desired or shared with the pastors and our intercessory prayer group. Prayer cards are located at Connection Corner and in the Narthex.

SUPPORT AND CARE

We are a Stephen Ministry Church and provide trained, strictly-confidential lay pastoral care for our congregation and community. Contact one of the Pastors for information on how you be connected to one of our Stephen Ministers 757 229-1771.

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