



**Carol UMH #246 - Joy to the World**  
**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 nature sing.**



**THE PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**OFFERING  
 OFFERTORY  
 PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**THE SCRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (UMC Hymnal #23)**

**A SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING**

One candle can chase away the darkness. May these candles shine bright this night, O God, and lead us to a deep place, a holy space where we discover an incredible love, your love smiling at us from a manger. Help us see, really see, how much you love us and draw us out of the darkness. Amen.

**HYMN - UMH #239 - Silent Night, Holy Night**

**(Congregation will sing this hymn by candlelight. Our pastor will let you know when to extinguish the candles following the Benediction.)**

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.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Fullerton First United Methodist Church*  
**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - December 24, 2009, 11:00 p.m.**

**PRELUDE**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Congregation:** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**Leader:** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**Congregation:** **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

**Leader:** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**Congregation:** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**HYMN - UMH #218 - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Everlasting God, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel. Be with us as we light the Christ Candle. May its light illumine our souls, guide our steps, and fill our hearts with heavenly joy. Amen.

## A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

### **Lesson #1 Micah 5: 2 , 5a**

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." And he will be their peace.



**Carol UMH #250 - Once in Royal David's City  
Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

### **Lesson #2 Luke 1: 26 - 35, 38**

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.



**Carol UMH #238 - Angels We Have Heard on High  
Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

### **Lesson #3 Luke 2: 1 - 7**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



**Carol UMH #219 - What Child Is This  
What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

### **Lesson #4 Luke 2: 8 - 16**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.



### **Carol UMH #251 - 70 Go Tell It on the Mountain**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born  
The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth**

### **Lesson #5 Matthew 2: 1 - 6**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."



**Carol UMH #254 - We Three Kings of Orient Are  
We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

### **Lesson #6 John 1:1-5 & 14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.