



# Wentz's United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, PA 19446 610.584.4855

**Saturday, December 24, 2022**  
**Christmas Eve**

**5:00 p.m**



*“Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place”  
—Zora Neale Hurston*

## **PRELUDE**

Assorted Musical Selections  
Saxophone Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Woodwinds Ensemble, Organ

## **PROCESSIONAL**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”  
Alumni Handbell Choir

Opening Hymn: “O Come All Ye Faithful”

Lighting of the Advent Candles

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel

**Many: In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.**

One: Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

**Many: God is truly with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Chimes Choir

**SPEAKING, SINGING, AND RECEIVING GOD’S WORD**

**The prophecy: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

Is. 9:2 The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

6 For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace.

7 His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CHANCEL CHOIR

“Far Away in a Manger”

arr. Kevin Keil

**Reading #1 Mary - Luke 1:26-31, 36-38**

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,  
<sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was  
Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The  
angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will  
conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth  
month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> Then Mary

said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

### **Reading #2 Joseph - Matthew 1:18-21, 24**

Matt. 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Matt. 1:24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife

### **Hymn: “Joy to the World”**

### **Reading #3 Shepherds - Luke 2:8-12, 15-17**

Luke 2:8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

<sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child.

### **Hymn: “The First Noel”**

### **Reading #4 Seekers - Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11**

Matt. 2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

<sup>9</sup> [T]hey set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### **Hymn: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

**Reading #5 Angels - Luke 1:26-27a; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:8-9, 13**

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

Matthew 1:20 “[A]n angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph} in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:8 Once when [Zechariah] was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense.

Luke 1:13 [An] angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

OFFERING

Offertory “Angels We Have Heard on High”  
Brass Ensemble

**Reading #6 Jesus - John 1:1, 14; Luke 2: 6-7**

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Luke 2:6 While they were there, the time came for [Mary] to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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.

REFLECTION Message in the Manger

SPECIAL MUSIC Journey Band “O Holy Night”

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Commune

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts;

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High:  
**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Breaking Bread, Pouring Wine

Prayer of Consecration and 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Call to the Supper, Sharing the Elements

*Our celebration of Holy Communion is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and share in the community of God's people. Please come forward to receive the bread (not gluten free) and wine (grape juice is in the center ring).*

**Circle of Candlelight**

*Ushers will light the first candle in each pew.  
Please stand and tilt your unlit candle  
to receive the light of your neighbor's candle.*

CLOSING HYMN

"Silent Night"



Wentz's United Church of Christ  
3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, Pa 19446  
[www.wentzsucc.org](http://www.wentzsucc.org) - [office@wentzsucc.org](mailto:office@wentzsucc.org)  
610-584-4855

Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr. – Senior Pastor  
[rev@wentzsucc.org](mailto:rev@wentzsucc.org)

Ruth Geisel – Consistory President/Elder  
Mike Todd- Ministerial Intern/Administrative Assistant  
Corey Taragna- Lead Trustee  
Donna Mower – Guild President  
June Wright- Organist  
Laura McLennan and Jim O'Donnell- Music Dept  
Matt MacDonald- social media