

Service: Dec. 24th 2024 Christmas Eve

Gathering Prelude Time of Prayer & Meditation

Pastor's moment: Greetings and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: And so this is Christmas!

All: We gather again to mark the birth of the one who comes to turn the world upside down.

Leader: And so this is Christmas!

All: Instead of coming in wealth, using armies of power, God's loving kin-dom begins in poverty.

Leader: And so this is Christmas!

All: The babe of Bethlehem brings us hope in a world of darkness.

Leader: And so this is Christmas!

All: Let us worship the God of the upside-down realm of love & grace. Amen. Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn Joy to the World PG 246 O Little Town of Bethlehem PG 230

Opening Prayer:

God of Surprising Love and Hope, we come this evening to the manger, gazing lovingly on the Child born to bring hope to the world. Open our hearts tonight as we hear the story anew. Help us to be guided by the Light of Jesus Christ, that we may truly feel the power of your grace and bring that hope, with joy, to all we meet. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

First Reading: Psalm 96:1-13

Hymn: Away in a Manger PG 217

Love Came Down at Christmas PG 242

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25

I am reading from the book of Matthew, Chapter 1 verses 18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[d]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy

Spirit. **19** Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[e] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[f] because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"^[g] (which means "God with us").

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. **25** But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Message: And the Child is Born

Joys & Concerns of God's People Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (unison)

Offering

***Doxology** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" pg.

#95 Closing Hymn: "Silent Night" PG 239 Candle Lighting

Psalm 96

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of his^[a] holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.”
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
- ¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
- ¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday December 22, 2024



Come visit us for worship
Ashton UMC Sundays at 9:00 a.m. or
Reynolds UMC Sundays at 10:30 a.m.