

* GREETING

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His Shoulders.

And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

* CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O God, who has made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech Thee, that as we have known on earth the mysteries of the Light, we may also come to the fullness of its joy in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

* ACT OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

UMH 70

PROCLAMATION

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, we come by this service to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and to see the loving-kindness of our God, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us therefore open the Holy Scriptures and read the earliest tale of the story of the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord who came to save us from our sins and make us pure and happy; and let us thank him with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of this whole world; and especially for peace and goodwill among all people; that they may learn to love one another, as children of one God and Father of all.

And because this would most rejoice his heart, let us remember him the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sins have grieved his heart.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude no one can number, with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST READING

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1, 2, 14)

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

The birth of Jesus was like this:

1. Joseph

Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph (Light Joseph's candle), but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 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. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:18-21)

2. Mary

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 (Light Mary's candle).

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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." (Luke 1:26-38)

JOY TO THE WORLD UMH 246

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing. (2x)
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns,
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy. (2x)
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, (2x)
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, (2x)
And wonders, wonders of His love.

SECOND READING

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 (Light Jesus' candle). She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

THIRD READING

And there were shepherds (Light shepherds' candles) 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." (Luke 2:8-12)

THE FIRST NOEL UMH 245

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

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." (Luke 2:13-14)

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

UMH 238

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new born King.

FOURTH READING

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. (Luke 2:15-16)
(Extinguish shepherds' candles)

FIFTH READING

Magi (Wise Men)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi (Light Magi's candles) 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."... [Then] the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11)

WE THREE KINGS UMH 254

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-18 (pg 1063)

SERMON **Grace and Truth Came through Jesus Christ**

Rev. Buell Abraham

RESPONSE

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERING

Lord, allow our gifts to match our commitment that with our words and life,
Jesus may be glorified and the Kingdom of God enriched. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

AMTHEM How Should a King Come Choir

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

(From Jesus' candle, the congregation will light their candles one by one)

O HOLY NIGHT

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared unto men upon the earth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on Your knees, oh hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night, when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love, and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord, oh praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

THANKSGIVING

God of every nation and people,
From the very beginning of creation You have made manifest Your love.
When our need for a Saviour was great
You sent Your Son to be born of the virgin Mary.
To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love.
Remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thought to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

* THE BLESSING

* GOING FORTH

CHORAL RESPONSE We Wish You a Merry Christmas Choir

THE RECESSIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROL
WITH CANDLES LIGHTED

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING UMH 240

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies:
With th'angelic hosts proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

WORSHIP ENABLERS

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Tan Kok Khoon
Associate Pastor: Rev. Buell Abraham
Liturgist: Ms Veronica Ting
Readers: Mrs Enid Foong
Datin Doris Soon
Mrs Julia Wong
Ms Mandy Wong
Mr Mok Chee Paan
Organist: Mr Tan Guodong
Choir Director: Mrs Lim Sooi Han
Choir: Bright Morning Star Choir

<p>25 DECEMBER 2010 Christmas Day Services 8.00 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Fellowship 9.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.</p> <p>31 DECEMBER 2010 Watchnight Covenant Service 10.00 p.m.</p>
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*Christmas is a time for "giving up" sin, bad habits, and selfish pleasures.
Christmas is a time for "giving in" surrender to Christ, acceptance of Him as King.
Christmas is a time for "giving out" real giving, not swapping.*
- Anonymous