

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE



**United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401**

7 p.m. – December 24, 2023

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery
812-332-1850 www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church Worship Guide
 Sunday, December 24, 2023 – Christmas Eve Service



Welcome and Announcements

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Joy – The Nyarko Family

Prelude in C Major from *Book 1 of the Well-Tempered Clavier* – Bach Gabriel Bruner, piano

Call to Worship

Members of the Nyarko Family, liturgists

Liturgist: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And peace to God's people on earth!

Liturgist: To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

People: O come let us adore him!

*Opening Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #41

Prayer

Deacon Patrick Nyarko, liturgist

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way, the truth, and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle Wreath

The Nyarko Family

First Reading: *Luke 2: 1-7* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Carol: *Away in a Manger* #25 (remain seated)

Second Reading: *Luke 2: 8-14* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Carol: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* #31 (remain seated)

Third Reading: *Luke 2: 15-20* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Carol: *What Child Is This* #53 (remain seated)

Leader: The word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

Sermon *To Us a Child Is Born* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Carol: *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* #46

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. 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 of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Sharing the Light

Carol

Silent Night

See page 4

Response of the People

Pastor: Christ the Savior is born!

People: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor: Jesus Christ, the light of the world!

People: A light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: Earth shines tonight with heavenly light:

People: Jesus Christ, the light of the world!

*Carol *Joy to the World!*

See page 5

Benediction

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Postlude *Break Forth, O Beautiful Heavenly Light*

Gabriel Bruner, piano

Please stand if you are able

Christmas Eve Holy Communion & Sharing the Light

Elders Darian McBride and Melanie Mathis McBride will stand with Rev. Montgomery offering the Communion Cups and Bread. Congregants will come forward, consume the bread and juice, return the cup to the receptacle, then receive a candle from Elders and proceed to the outer walls to form a circle around the sanctuary. Rev. Montgomery will light the first candle as we Share the Light from person to person. Rev. Montgomery will lead us in singing Silent Night as we form the Circle of Light. Deposit your candle in the receptacles held by Elders at the rear of the Sanctuary as you depart.



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Silent Night, Holy Night

60

STILLE NACHT Irregular

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863

Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, Round you
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight, Glo - ries
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light; With the

vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
stream from heav - en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia;
beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh',
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'!</p> | <p>2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Alleluja,
Tönt est laut von fern und nah:
Christ der Retter ist da,
Christ der Retter ist da!</p> |
| <p>3. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund':
Christ, in deiner Geburt,
Christ, in deiner Geburt!</p> | |

CHRISTMAS

40

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 And heaven and na - ture sing,

And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,