

Silent Night Page



Christmas Eve 2022

**Cherry Valley
United Methodist Church**

Christmas Day – One Combined Service
10:00 a.m. Tomorrow at Cherry Valley



Christmas Eve 2022

Dear Friends,

“Fear Not!” These are the words we have been tracing through the Christmas story this Advent Season. This command comes from the Lord through his angels, to Isaiah the prophet who spoke of the Messiah’s coming; to Zechariah the priest who fathered John the Baptist; to the Virgin Mary who was called to be the mother of Jesus; to Joseph the adoptive father of the One called Immanuel; and now on this holy night of Christ’s birth, it comes to the Shepherds who feared a great fear: **“Fear Not! 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.”**

The Bible tells us, *“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear ...”* (1 John 4:18). Jesus the Son of God was born on this night, that he might share our humanity, that he might show us the fulness of God’s love by suffering and dying on the Cross for our sins, that he might be raised from the dead to be the living eternal Lord and Savior of all who trust him. In all of life’s sufferings, and indeed even in death, God tells us, **“Fear Not!”**

Love in Christ,
Pastor Paul

The Shepherds and Angels

Luke 2: 8-20, Freddie Catalano

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 host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

The Gifts of the Magi

Matthew 2: 1-12, Bettyjane Altemose

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.*

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
*O ... star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Lighting of the Candles

Please Dip Unlighted Candle into Upright Lit Candle

Silent Night, Holy Night

See Music & Words on Back Page

Benediction

Christmas Day Worship – 10:00 a.m. Tomorrow at Cherry Valley

Jesus' Birth Foretold

Luke 1:26-38, Darlene Perry

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.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come peasant, king, to own him;

The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King ...

Mary's Praise Song

Luke 1: 46-56, Rachel Bailey

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2: 1-7, Toni Bush

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing ...

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love ...

Christmas Eve 2022 Service of Lessons and Carols

Mary Did You Know? – Recorded by Scotty McIntosh

Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice of one calling in the desert:
“Prepare the way for the Lord;
make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

***Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;***
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
***And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”***

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
*O come, let us adore him ...
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
*O come, let us adore him ...
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Christmas Prayer

Christmas Offering

O Holy Night – Recorded by Scotty McIntosh

Christmas Message

Pastor Paul

“Fear Not!” Series:

Fear and Joy

*... and they feared a fear great. But the angel said to them,
“Fear not! I bring you good news of great joy ...”
Luke 2:9-10*

Lessons and Carols

Old Testament Prophecy

Isaiah 7:14, 9:2, 9:6, Gracie Jane Cohn

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Joseph and Mary

Matthew 1:18-25, Joyce Gunn

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Glo – ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo – ria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo – ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo – ria, in excelsis Deo!

Isaiah 7:14, 9:2, 9:6

The Lord himself will give you a sign:

The virgin will be with child
and will give birth to a son,
and you will call him Immanuel,
which means, God With Us.

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: 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. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and 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, Fear Not 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.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

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

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, 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 conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him 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 Jacob's descendants 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 on 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 unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:46-56

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done
great things for me — holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud
in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

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 their 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.

Luke 2:8-20

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 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 those 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. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Matthew 2:1-12

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 shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose 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, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Sandy's Reading [repeat after Pastor Paul]

The Angel said to Joseph:

Mary will give birth to a Son,

and you are to give him the name Jesus,

because he will save his people from their sins.