

*The Poinsettias which adorn our sanctuary this Christmas season  
have been lovingly dedicated to the following:*

**Celeste Wray**  
From Earline Matthews & Jocelyn Raysor

**Walter Day**  
From Earline Matthews & Jocelyn Raysor

**Dr. Sidney D. Jones**  
From Berry Jones

**Walter M. Jones**  
From Berry Jones

**Doug & Mae Rice**  
From Carol Wright

**Evelyn Sterling**  
From Amy & Bradford Sterling

**Rocky Jester**  
From Amy & Bradford Sterling

**Adam Lenz**  
From Amy & Bradford Sterling

**Frank Wooten**  
From Dudley, Ann, Frank & Katy Langston

**Kay Langston & Rudy Langston**  
From Dudley, Ann, Frank & Katy Langston

**Celeste Wray**  
From Dudley, Ann, Frank & Katy Langston

**Lois Wooten**  
From Dudley, Ann, Frank & Katy Langston

**Bruce Mays & his Food Pantry Crew**  
From Sara Holmes

**Dr. and Mrs. George McPherson**  
From Bob McPherson

**Walter & Linda Douty Mischke**  
From Steve Mischke

**Fred & Glenda Smith**  
From Nancy & Lloyd Hearn

**Alvin Swiney & Sarah Fitch**  
From Nancy & Lloyd Hearn

**Louise Howell**  
From The Coops

**Our Parents**  
From The Coops

**Michael Cantler**  
From Jenina M. Cantler

**Eddie Cantler**  
From Jenina M. Cantler

**Betty & Joe Gorab**  
From Charles & Betty Ann Carter

**Emma & Charlie Carter**  
From Charles & Betty Ann Carter

**Nina Ross & Paul Ross**  
From Becky Ross McRae

**Ellen & Nic Tullock**  
From Becky Ross McRae

**Doug Earthman**  
From Becky Ross McRae

**Margaret Earthman**  
From Becky Ross McRae

**Carolyn T. Walker**  
From Russell Walker

**John R. Walker III**  
From Russell Walker

**Mary Hewes Mulherin**  
From Russell Walker

**Capt. John T. Lozier, esq.**  
From Dale Lozier

**Our Grandmothers**  
From Angela Ghoreishi & Hugh Taylor

**Judy Carr & Marth Worden**  
From Angela Ghoreishi & Hugh Taylor

**Celeste Wray**  
From Christopher Williams

**Advent Class Teachers—  
Jeff Michael & Dawn LaFon**  
From Woody & Blaire Burton

**Gerry Severns**  
From Bill & Lyn Stewart

**Our Parents**  
From Bill & Lyn Stewart

**James Shepherd**  
From Sylvia Shepherd

**Cyndy Bingham**  
From Bill Colton

**Lila Beth Burke**  
From Bill Colton

**Patricia Dillard & Sylvia Ferguson**  
From Collins & Renee Dillard

**Alexandra & Isabelle Dillard**  
From Collins & Renee Dillard

**The Mission, Ministry, Love &  
Welcome of St. John's UMC**  
From Collins & Renee Dillard

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

## CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2016

5:30 PM



# ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1207 PEABODY AVENUE

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**  
Closed—Dec. 26-27  
Closing at 12:00pm—Dec. 28-30

*For information about upcoming  
events, visit our website and  
LIKE our Facebook page.  
Join us!*

[www.stjohnsmidtown.org](http://www.stjohnsmidtown.org)

St. John's United Methodist  
Church - Midtown Memphis

@stjohnsmidtown



*-ORDER OF SERVICE-*

December 24, 2016

*Invitatory Carol*

**SING JOY**

Setting by Mark Hayes

Incorporating:

*Joy to the World, For Unto Us a Child Is Born,  
and O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Chancel Choir

Matthew Bogart, Accompanist

*Words of Welcome*

Rev Dr. Johnny Jeffords

*Bidding Prayer*

+ *Opening Congregational Carols*

MENDELSSOHN

**HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
withh'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

~Interlude Music~

+*Sharing the Light of Christmas*

During the singing of the carol, recess through the Narthex  
and surround the church corner with light.

Side aisles please use the side doors.

Use caution as you move with the candles.

+*Community Carol*

STILLE NACHT

**SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT**

**1) *Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.***

**3) *Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.***

**2) *Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!***

**4) *Silent night, holy night,  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!***

*St. John's welcomes everyone. Our hearts, minds, and doors are open  
to people of all ages, races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities,  
theological identities, economic status, disabilities, and people who sojourn on the way  
to recovery and wholeness. We are a diverse community whose discipleship  
to Jesus Christ is demonstrated through our deep commitment to servant ministry.*

***Welcome Home!***

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving—UMH 13 (Responses)

- Taking the Bread and Cup
- The Lord's Prayer
- Sharing Holy Sacrament

Prayer After Receiving

Lord give us courage to be your people—to show your justice, grace, mercy, peace, and love; and to be a part of your transformation of our world until the day when the baby whose birth we celebrate tonight comes again in peace, and we sing your praise and glory forever. Amen.

+ Lesson of the Light: John 1:1-14 –NRSV Rev Dr. Johnny Jeffords

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

An-gels we have heard on high sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
and the moun-tains in reply ech-o-ing their joy-ous strains.  
Glo - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!  
Glo - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

~ Interlude Music ~

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

An-gels from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er  
Shep-herds, in the fields a-bid-ing, watch-ing o'er your  
all the earth. Ye who sang cre-a-tion's sto-ry  
flocks by night. God with us is now re-sid-ing.  
now pro-claim Mes-si-ah's birth. Come and wor-ship,  
Yon-der shines the in-fant light.  
come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born King.

*Time at the Crèche*

*Children's Carol*

AWAY IN A MANGER

AWAY IN A MANGER

A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord  
Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked  
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

Text: Rev. Renee Dillard

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*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.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
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 onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

*Offertory Carol*

GESÚ BAMBINO

Setting by Pietro Yon, 1917

Mary McDonald, Soprano  
Carol Craig, Accompanist

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,  
The King of Love and Light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,  
Its King of Love and Light.*

*Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,  
The grateful chorus swell.  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.*

*O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

## Christmas Prayer of Confession

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,  
**have mercy on us, Lord.**

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing  
and hearing and touching the needs of others,  
**let your grace consume us, O God.**

When the wars around us are of no concern,  
**forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion  
for those who suffer.**

When our caring is not extended to action,  
**move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.**

**We come to confess our sinfulness  
before you and before each other.**

**Remove all barriers that divide us,  
and let there be no obstacle to our love for you  
and for one another. Amen.**

~Silent Prayers~

## Assurance of Pardon

People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ,  
whose birth we celebrate, the Lord has  
comforted and redeemed us!

Recall the words of the angels:

Good news . . . Great joy . . . All people . . .

In Christ we receive the salvation of our God.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
Glory to God in the highest!**

+*The Peace*

*Sharing God's Tithe and Our Offerings*

This year's  
Christmas Eve  
offering goes  
to support the  
Pastor's  
Discretionary  
Fund.

Our preparations have been made; our wait is over. We have imagined Hope,  
Love, Joy, and Peace. Now we are ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus,  
God's light and love incarnate.

**We have walked in darkness. Now we seek God's light.**

The birth of Jesus brings light in the world and sparks our imaginations anew.

**We have walked in darkness. Now we seek God's light.**

We light the Christ candle, and give thanks for the gift of Jesus.

We light the Christ candle, and our spirits are kindled.

We light the Christ candle, and we are encouraged to shine God's  
light in the world.

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace;  
shine your light on us, and let your light shine through us!  
Christmas Blessings! Amen.**

## Congregational Carol

ADESTE FIDELES

### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O  
Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O sing, all ye  
come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold him,  
cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
born the King of an - gels; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
glo - ry in the high - est;  
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

+*Scripture Reading:* Luke 2:1-20—NRSV

Rev Dr. John Kilzer

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world  
should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while  
Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be

registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

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

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.”

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told to them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.

*Homily*

Rev Dr. John Kilzer

MANGER HEART

## *Choir Carol*

### LOVELY CHILD, HOLY CHILD

Setting by David N. Johnson

Chancel Choir

Matthew Bogart, Accompanist

*Lovely Child, Holy Child,  
Gentle, mild, Undeified;  
Infant King, Fairest King,  
Gifts we'll bring and anthems sing:  
Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Child of light, Born tonight,  
Our delight, Promise bright;  
Child so fair: See him there;  
Now declare him ev'rywhere:  
Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Rest thy head, Sweetest head;  
Gifts we'll spread at thy bed.  
Jesus Lord, Be adored,  
May this word now be outpoured:  
Alleluia, Alleluia*

*To this boy, Our great joy,  
We employ Hymns of joy;  
Child so fair; See him there;  
Now declare him ev'rywhere:  
Alleluia, Alleluia*

### *A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE*

#### *Invitation to the Table*

Rev. Renee Dillard

Christ our Lord invites all – all who wait  
for the coming of Emmanuel with hopeful expectation,  
all who repent of their sin, all who long for peace on earth.  
Let that peace begin with us as we confess our sins together.