



*On them*  
**LIGHT**  
*has shined!*

LAKE TOXAWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 83  
LAKE TOXAWAY, NC 28747

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
CHRISTMAS EVE, 2022**

**7:30 PM Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S\\_Cfg1sWCg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg)**

**ENTRANCE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.***

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

Silent Night arr. Charles Callahan

**GREETING**

*Glory to God in the highest!*

***And hope to every discouraged heart.***

*Glory to God in the highest!*

***And peace to every conflicted soul.***

*Glory to God in the highest!*

***And joy to every downcast spirit.***

*Glory to God in the highest!*

***And love to everyone.***

*Let us sing praises to our God.*

***Let us offer this light against the darkness.***

**HYMN #234**

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Stanzas 1-4)

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*Dodson Family*)**

***Reader 1:*** Advent hope moves us; (Light the first candle)

***Reader 2:*** Advent peace stills us; (Second candle)

***Reader 3:*** Advent joy stirs us; (Third Candle-rose)

***Reader 4:*** Advent love leads us that we might affirm our King Jesus. (Fourth candle)

***Reader 5:*** It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle. (Light the Christ candle.)

***All:*** We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ, our hope is fulfilled; our peace is sealed; our joy is complete; and our love is consummated.

***Reader 1:*** Rejoice, a Savior is born.

***All:*** A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

## **OPENING PRAYER** *(Please be seated)*

*Glorious God, who presents us with the most precious of gifts, we praise you for all your blessings in our lives. Tonight, we have come to this place, in the midst of a busy time of feasting and opening packages. We might not even have everything ready at home, yet we have come, because we ourselves need to be ready. Work in our hearts this night, preparing us for your presence. Work in our lives that we may reach out to others in comfort and compassion; work in our world that the darkness that has encompassed it may be dispelled by the brightness of your love and your Gift. In faith and expectation, we pray. AMEN.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER #895**

## **HYMN # 219**

What Child is This

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Psalm 96** *(Please read the bold text)*

***Response: The Lord comes, the Lord comes, and all creation sings for joy.***

96:1 O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**96:2 Sing to the LORD, bless God's name; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

96:3 Declare his glory among the nations, the Lord's marvelous works among all the peoples.

**96:4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; to be feared above all gods.**

96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**96:6 Honor and majesty are before the Lord; in whose sanctuary are strength and beauty. Response**

96:7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**96:8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; bring an offering, and come into the courts of the Lord.**

96:9 Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before the Lord, all the earth. **Response**

96:10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!

**The Lord has established the world, it shall never be moved.**

**The Lord will judge the peoples with equity"**

96:11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

96:12 let the field exult, and everything in it.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy**

**96:13 before the LORD; who comes to judge the earth. The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth. Response**

## **HOMILY**

## **A CHRISTMAS CREED # 883**

## **HYMN OF PREPARATION #230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Lord of Light and Hope, our minutes and hours have been swallowed up in preparation for this night and for the coming day. We have been so caught up in the preparations for gatherings and gifting that we have pushed aside the wonder of what you have done for all Creation. Forgive us when we so easily get entangled in our own plans and forget to pay attention to the true event. Help us to relax and listen, instead of rush and shout. May the songs of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and the joy of the Holy Family become part of our preparations and our lives. Open our ears, our eyes, our hearts, and our spirits to again hear the old, old story, spoken by new voices in new ways. Remind us again of your never-changing love for us. Prepare us to serve you by serving others. This night we offer this prayer of our hearts to you, gracious God. AMEN.*

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*God's love and faithfulness have been at work in you. You are healed and forgiven. Rejoice in God's love. AMEN.*

***In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!***

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

*The Lord be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts.*

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*(The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, and concludes): ... and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

*(The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.) The pastor concludes: ... and so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

***Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.***

*(The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding): ... all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen***

## **GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

***Most gracious God, source of all blessing, we give You thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family; strengthen us to be a blessing to all the world, glorifying you in all things; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

## SENDING FORTH

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND HYMN #239

"Silent Night" (all verses)

*(Candles will be lit at this time. The ushers will bring the light to you. Please keep burning wicks upright. Tip only the unlighted candles. Enjoy the symbolism and bask in the glow of candlelight, but please be careful and respectful of the church's furnishings.)*

### WITNESS TO THE LIGHT

*Loving God,  
help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven in the light of the Star of Bethlehem and its Good News to All!*

### CLOSING HYMN #246

Joy to the World

### BENEDICTION

### CHORAL CLOSING HYMN #251

Go Tell It on the Mountain

### POSTLUDE *(Please be seated for the Postlude)*

He is Born John Behnke

*(Please extinguish your candle during the Postlude)*

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### WELCOME ALL

*Welcome to this service of candlelight and communion on this holy night. Whether small or large in number, we believe that God in Christ is the focus of our worship. Please use the time prior to the start of the service to reflect quietly.*

*In the United Methodist tradition, all people are welcome at the communion rail. We observe communion by the coming to the rails at the altar. The ushers will direct you to use the center aisle to come to the communion rail. You are invited to kneel or to stand at the altar rail. You will be offered a piece of bread which you can dip in the communion cup. Consume the bread that you have dipped and then remain at the altar until the Pastor offers a blessing to each group. Children are welcome to receive communion. If you do not wish to receive the elements, cross your arms at the rail and receive the gift of coming to the altar.*

### **STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

Organist: Charlie Steele: [cwsorgan@comporium.net](mailto:cwsorgan@comporium.net)

Church Admin.: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org)

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 & Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill: 828-884-3548

Liturgists: The Dodson Family

***Hymns are located on the next few pages and used with permission via One License #737113-A***

234

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O  
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -*  
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O  
 \* 4. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra - dle,

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.  
*ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.*  
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!  
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
*Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.*  
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;  
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

*Refrain*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,  
*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.  
*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.*

## What Child Is This

219

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's  
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and  
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,

lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear, for  
 king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 (Lk. 2:6-20; Mt. 2:1-12)  
 MUSIC: 16th cent. English melody

GREENSLEEVES  
 87.87 with Refrain

## 230 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;  
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given;  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868  
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS  
 86.86.76.86

Alt. tune: FOREST GREEN

# Silent Night, Holy Night

239



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;



round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
*nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - i - gem Haar,*  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;



sleep in heav - en - ly peace,	sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
<i>schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh,</i>	<i>schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.</i>
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!



WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;  
 st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)  
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT  
 Irr.

## Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,

Let earth re - ceive her King; let  
 Let all their songs em - ploy; while  
 nor thorns in - fest the ground; he  
 and makes the na - tions prove the

ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

WORDS: Issac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98:4-9)  
 MUSIC: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH  
 CM with Repeat

BIRTH AND BAPTISM

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 far as the curse is found, far  
 and won - ders of his love, and

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 far as the curse is found, far  
 and won - ders of his love, and

sing,  
 joy,  
 found,  
 love,

and re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his

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

sing,  
 joy,  
 found,  
 love,

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain

251

*Refrain*



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

*Refrain*

be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light,  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text: African-American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1873-1925, verses, alt.

Tune: African-American spiritual; setting: Hugh Porter, 1897-1960

Text and music: public domain

GO, TELL IT  
 76 76 WITH REFRAIN

LA 27-76; HA 40-9-11