

FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF OAK RIDGE

1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike • Oak Ridge, TN 37830 • fumcor.org • 865-483-4357 phone • 865-483-4391 fax

December 26th, 2021

First Sunday After Christmas

Welcome! We pray that worship at First United Methodist Church is a blessing for you, even as your presence blesses us. Since we remain under pandemic protocols, our time together will differ from our services in the past, but we celebrate that God's gift of grace is enough to sustain us in all circumstances. Wireless hearing aids are available from the ushers. If the last year has taught us anything, it is that being together to worship God is an enormous blessing.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude on 'Greensleeves'

by: Richard Purvis

The Trinity Chimes, the three chimes heard at the opening of the worship service, represent God our Creator, Jesus Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who sustains us.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us all rejoice in the Lord.

For our Savior has been born in the world.

Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

Christ is born! Thanks be to God.

OPENING CAROL, NO. 224

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
 News, news!
 Jesus Christ is born today!
 Ox and ass before him bow,
 and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today,
 Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
 News, news!
 Jesus Christ was born for this!
 He hath opened heaven's door,
 and ye are blest forevermore.
 Christ was born for this,
 Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
 News, news!
 Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all
 to gain his everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save,
 Christ was born to save!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from Stephen Fearing

We believe that God has come to us as a little child, making our weakness his strength, securing our salvation by becoming one of us, blessing us with a steadfast savior, filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.

We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world, giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts, making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority, declaring an everlasting reign of peace, defeating the power of death.

We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love, inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection through our lives, transforming us as disciples to go out into the world, sending us forth to announce his kin'dom of peace and comfort, challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children. This we believe. This we preach. This we seek to embody in word and deed.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong.
We have tarnished the gift you gave freely.
We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you.
We have not followed Christ,
we have ignored your teachings,
we have lived lives of apathy against your love,
we have built fences and fortresses to push people away,
and we have silenced the screams of those in need.

Forgive us, we pray.
Free us from our sin,
Free us from our captivity,
Free us to a life lived in Joy
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Silence for personal confession.

CAROL, NO. 237

Sing We Now of Christmas

FRENCH CAROL

1 Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Refrain:

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

2 Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest." (Refrain)

3 In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
seated by the manger, watching the holy child. (Refrain)

4 From the eastern country came the kings afar,
bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star. (Refrain)

5 Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
there was never a stable so like paradise. (Refrain)

CAROL, NO. 228

He Is Born

IL EST NÉ

Refrain:

He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we all of the Savior mild.

Refrain:

Il est né, le divin Enfant,
jouez hautbois résonnez musettes!
Il est né, le divin Enfant,
chantons tous son avènement!

1 Thru long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last!(Refrain)

2 O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure
gracious gift to humankind!(Refrain)

3 Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us thy heavenly peace.(Refrain)

SCRIPTURE READING

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

SOLO

What Child Is This—What Child Is This

By: John Leavitt

MEDITATION

Christmas in the Trenches

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Christmas in the Trenches

by: John McCutcheon

CAROL, NO. 239

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

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.

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute hochheilige Paar,
Holder Knabe mit lockigem Haar,
schlaf im himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf im himmlischer Ruh.

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!

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.

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!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

CAROL, NO. 246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

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

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. 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,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

by: Richard Elliott

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Jenny Caughman, *Spiritual Care Pastor*
Music: Rev. Seth O’Kegley-Gibson, *Pastor of Music & Worship*
Jeff Kile, *Director of Contemporary Worship*
Josh Sumter, *Music Associate & Organist*

(Lyrics reprinted under CCLI #1524077)

