

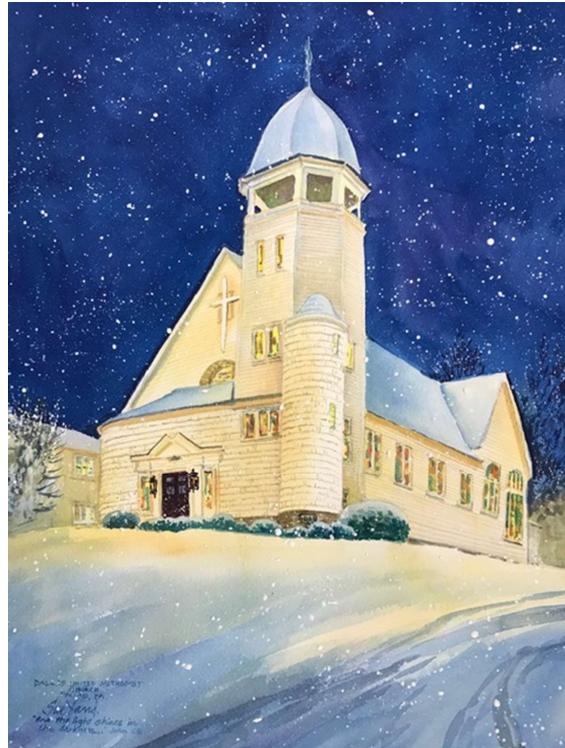
# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

“CHRISTMAS EVE”

“COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERIES”

Liturgical Color – White



“Painting by Sue Hand”

## DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

*Your savior is born today in David's city.*

*He is Christ the Lord.*

~ Luke 2:11 ~

\* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

WELCOME

PRELUDE ... *A TIME TO FOCUS OUR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS ON OUR SAVIOR AND LORD – JESUS!*

(Lights are dimmed in the Prayer Room)

PROCLAMATION

***WE COME TO HEAR THE STORY OF GOD COMING TO US***

GOD'S WORD:

Luke 2:1-20

*(The Liturgist says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... The People respond: "Thanks BE to God"*

\* *He Is Born*

# 228

\* CALL TO WORSHIP:

A child has been born for us, whose name is called:

Wonderful Counselor—

**Good Shepherd, Deliverer,**

**Lamb of God, The Word;**

Mighty God—

**First and Last, Author of Life,**

**Morning Star, The Light;**

Everlasting Father—

**Bread of Life,**

**Resurrection and Life,**

**Light of the World,**

**The Vine;**

Prince of Peace—

**Chief Cornerstone,**

**Lord of lords,**

**King of kings,**

**The Way.**

He is Immanuel. God with us!

\* PRAYER

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear* # 218

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* # 230

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.**

GOD'S WORD: Luke 2:1-20

*(The Liturgist says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... The People respond: "Thanks BE to God")*

CHILDREN'S CHAT

\* *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* # 240

CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S BIRTH:

Heaven sings:  
**sing of creation and life;**

**sing of love and light.**

Earth sings:  
 join the chorus, tell the story of salvation.  
 Let all welcome the Messiah.

**Sun and moon proclaim the message of divine light.**

**Ocean waves tell of life-giving water.**

**Forests rustle with Spirit-filled wind.**

**Field and vineyard give fruit for a heavenly feast.**

All peoples marvel at what they see and hear.

Join with all of creation in praise.

**Sing of God's deeds of power and grace.**

**For Jesus Christ is born this day:**

the One who was foretold by the prophets,  
 and promised in ages past;

**the One who would triumph over death,**  
**and bring us life;**

**the One who would forgive our sin,**  
**and heal our wounds;**

the One who would show us the kingdom of God,  
 and how we might live.

**Born to set us free ...**

**Born to give us life ...**

**Born as a gift ...**

Heaven sings and earth rejoices:

**Jesus Christ is born.**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

# 234 (verses 1 – 4)

MOMENT OF PRAYER

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

(Lights are dimmed in the Sanctuary)

*\* Silent 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.
2. Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly 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!

*\* BENEDICTION:*

Go, singing a song to the God of our salvation.  
Sing of mighty deeds and glory.  
Join the heavenly chorus and sing:  
**"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace."**  
Sing of God's salvation from day to day.  
**Jesus Christ is born today!**

*\* Joy to the World*

(Lights in the Sanctuary and Prayer Room are turned back up)

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
Let men 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 sin and sorrow 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.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**JESUS LOVES YOU!**