



Christmas Eve Service

11:00 PM



Little River United Methodist Church

*Rev. W. Russell Freeman, Sr.
Pastor*

*Rev. Emily Kirby
Associate Pastor*

PRELUDE

CHANT

HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God, you were before time began and came into the world to save us.

People: Blessed are you, Sun of Righteousness, you shine with the Father's love and illumine the whole universe

Pastor: Blessed are you, Son of Mary; born a child, you shared our humanity.

People: Let heaven and earth ring out their praise.

Pastor: O Mystery of the Word made flesh, with all the voices of heaven, we celebrate your coming as our Savior.

People: Let men and women and angels sing of your glory.

CHANT

HYMN

"Angels, We Have Heard on High"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

CHANT

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Pastor: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

CHANT

EPISTLE LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

Pastor: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

CHANT

HYMN

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2: 1 - 20

SERMON “Are You Ready for Christmas?”
HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRIST MASS

Pastor: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

**People: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness
to all generations.**

Pastor: To us you have brought abundant joy.

People: Before you we rejoice and sing.

CHANT

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, to whom glory is sung in the highest while on earth peace is proclaimed to all people of goodwill, grant that goodwill to us, your servants. Cleanse us from all our sins, and give perpetual peace to us and to all people; through your mercy, O God, who blesses and governs all things, now and forever.

People: Amen

Pastor: Tomorrow the iniquity of the earth shall be blotted out.

People: And the Savior of the world shall reign over us.

Pastor: The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: For those abiding in the land of death,
a new splendor has appeared.**

CHANT

Pastor: God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world.; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

Pastor: Today for our sake,
the King of heaven is born of a virgin mother:

People: To reclaim the lost for the heavenly kingdom.

Pastor: All the angels cry aloud with joy:

People: For God has come himself to save all humanity.

CHANT

Pastor: Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *“What Child Is This”*

CHANT

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMN *“Away in a Manger”*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord of Christmas,

People: We are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. Accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT

LESSON OF THE LIGHT John 1:1-14

SONG OF SIMEON

People: Lord, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to lighten the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen St. Luke 2:29-32

Silent Night: *(all sing)*

**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 your holy
face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your
birth.**

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God and Father of light, a child is born for us and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder and light at the nearness of our God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of the dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

People: Amen

Pastor: The Almighty and Incarnate God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

People: Amen

HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

POSTLUDE

O Come all Ye Faithful

1 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;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 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.

What Child is This

1 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?

Chorus:

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"