



**the
Church
of
the Village**



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter

No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever

Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



Christmas Eve Worship

“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-Lenape, called ‘Lenapehoking.’ The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.”

MATCH THE CAROL

Seven of the Christmas Carols used in this service are the favorites of particular COTV family members. During the Prelude, take time to match the Carol on the left with a person on the right. There may be a surprise at the end...

| CAROLS | COTV FAMILY MEMBERS |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 12 Days of Christmas | Pastor Alexis Lillie |
| Feliz Navidad | Isaac Ellis |
| O Come, O Come Emmanuel | Bethany Wenger |
| O Holy Night | Jorge Lockward |
| Hark, the Herald Angels Sing | Helen Peterson |
| Star Child | Cashel Campbell |
| The Christmas Song | Bethany Wenger |

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON 1

Jesus’ Birth Foretold to Mary

Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month, the angel, Gabriel, was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! God is with you.” But Mary was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name your child Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Almighty God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy and will be called Son of God....”

Then Mary said, “I am the servant of God. Let it be done with me as you say. Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL 1

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Child of God appear.**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!*

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and help us in that way to go.**

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

LESSON 2

Jesus Is Born

Luke 2:1-7

In those days, a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

CAROL 2

O Holy Night

O Holy Night!

**The stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
till Christ appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!**

**Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices!
Oh night divine, oh night when Christ was born!
Oh night divine, oh night divine!**

**Truly he taught us to love one another.
his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break for the slave is our sibling
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
let all within us praise his holy name.**

LESSON 3
The Angels Appear to the Shepherds
Luke 2:8-20

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of God stood before them, and the glory of God 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: Today in David’s city, a savior – the Messiah – has been born to you. 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 to those on whom God’s favor rests.”

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 God 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 them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and 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, just as it had been told them.

*Messiah: “The anointed one” a promised Savior/Liberator

CAROL 3
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the Christ-child bring;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled!”
Joyful, all you saints arise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angel host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the Christ-child bring!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
late in time the Savior comes,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;**

**hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased on earth with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the Christ-child bring!”**

**Hail the Bearer of God's peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness,
Light and life our Savior brings,
risen with radiant, healing wings.
Mildly laying glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us all from earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the Christ-child bring!”**

LESSON 4
The Astrologers Visit Herod

Matthew 2:1-15

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, astrologers from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.”

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah* was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the astrologers and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then Herod sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after the astrologers had left, an angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by God through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

CAROL 4

Star Child

**Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

**Street child, beat child, no place to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

**Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

**Hope for peace Child God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CLOSING SONG

Silent Night

**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.**

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night, Child of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from your holy face
bring the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ at your birth.**

POSTLUDE

The Christmas Song

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design Team: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer

Dance Ministry: Megan Haungs

Call to Offering: Jorge Lockward

Altar Design: Suzie Wilder

Visuals Design: Marisa Kreinbuhl & Katie Reimer

Flutes: Saeki Mayu & Nicole Schroeder Raimato

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Double Bass: Dave Ephross

Zoom Host: TBD

Zoom Chat: TBD

CREDITS

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Scripture Readings: All scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version, alt.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

W & M: English Christmas Carol

Feliz Navidad

W & M: Jose Feliciano

Away in a Manger

M: James R. Murray, arr. Melody Bober

O Come Emmanuel

W: Latin, c. 12th century; Eng. trans. J. M. Neale

M: VENI EMMANUEL, Gregorian Chant

O Holy Night

W: Placide Cappeau, Eng. trans. John S. Dwight

M: Adolphe Adam

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

W: Charles Wesley

M: Felix Mendelssohn

Star Child

W: Shirley Erena Murray (Matt. 2:1-12)

M: Carlton R. Young

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Silent Night

W: Joseph Mohr, trans. John F. Young

M: Franz Gruber

WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE

The Church of the Village is a progressive and radically inclusive community that is committed to dismantling racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression. The foundation for all of our theology and practice is Jesus' instruction to "love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself."

We seek to build a world overflowing with justice, mercy, kindness, and compassion.

Our church building stands on ancestral lands of the Lenape people. The colonizers who stripped Indigenous peoples of their lands used Christianity to justify their actions. We are beneficiaries of a history of appropriation, slavery, and forced migration. We repent and commit to being a community that seeks to repair the harm done to Indigenous peoples and build new pathways to love and justice.

We celebrate human diversity – welcoming people of every color, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and cognitive ability, and economic status. We strongly support environmental justice and stewardship of the Earth. We believe many roads lead to God and are respectful of a diversity of spiritual paths. We believe our community flourishes with many points of view, opportunities for creative expression, and participatory worship.

To learn more about The Church of the Village, please complete our [Virtual Welcome Card](#).

You can also submit a prayer request on the Welcome Card form.

We will gladly send you our weekly email newsletter and Daily Inspiration emails.

If you have questions, please contact PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org.

Please follow us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage)), Twitter (@umcofthevillage), and Instagram (churchofthevillage). Check out our [YouTube channel](#) for videos of music, worship, Finding Center, and more.

You can also learn more on our website at churchofthevillage.org.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| December 25 – Sunday | 10:10am 10:30am | Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) |
| December 27 – Tuesday | 2:00pm – 5:00pm | TRDP: Food Pantry |
| December 28 – Wednesday | 6:00pm | Bible Study (via Zoom) |
| December 30 – Friday | 9:00am – 10:00am | Together in Prayer (via Zoom) |
| December 31 – Saturday | 11:30am – 2:00pm | TRDP: Community Meal |
| January 1 – Sunday | 10:10am 10:30am | Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) |