



Christmas Eve

A stack of hay piled around the packs from the donkey was where Mary & Joseph tried to make themselves comfortable. They were exhausted and this would have to do for the night. The stable was dirty. Smelly. Unclean in ways which Hebrews wouldn't embrace. Yet, here they were when Mary realized that the time had come. Her

imaginings following Gabriel's visitation surely didn't include this. Mary was young and away from her support system. Delivering a baby was all the more complicated by that circumstance. And, Joseph, poor Joseph. He is often glossed over as the story is recounted. Joseph was somewhat older than his betrothed. He was an accomplished craftsman and respected businessman but he was in a situation for which no tools could help him. What went through his mind? How did the couple hold on to God's promise when everything was so different than what they had pictured?

The shepherds, still reeling from their angelic encounter, picked their way down the stony slopes of their fields. Stumbling and sliding on loose scree in their haste. They marveled as they went, turning over in their minds what they'd seen and heard. A baby. Messiah? Why would the angels choose them to be the first to receive the Good News? They were nobodies in the hierarchy of Hebrew society. But, from the beginning, God was reaching out to the least and the lost. In Him we are all treasured. And, tasked with spreading that message.

Beyond Jerusalem's walls, some period of time later, the caravan of the wise men came to a stop. The procession was not just three dressed up guys on camels. They'd been on the road for months. With them would be servants who were responsible for setting up tents, cooking meals and caring for the pack animals as well as the wise men's transports. It was a huge assembly of braying and shouting amidst the thunder of hoofbeats. We picture three kings resplendent atop docile dromedaries. In fact, desert dust and powerful aromas clung to the parade. The locals gathered around. Nebbing at the spectacle. Fascinated by the mayhem and size of the entourage. The sages made some inquiries which were brought to the attention of King Herod. A nasty ruler with a major cruel streak. Herod entertained the wise men. So friendly and accommodating . . . until discovering what their mission was. He encouraged the men to find the "king" which they were seeking and to report back with an update. Matthew 2:3 tells us, "When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him." We picture everyone celebrating the birth and miss the implications of the second portion of the verse. From the beginning, Jesus' birth revealed hearts. The wise men continued their search. They didn't return.



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December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

GATHERING & WELCOME

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

7:00 "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" – Temple Chimes

11:00 "Come Let Us Worship Him" -Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

People: A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!

Leader: A child has been born for us - a Son has been given.

People: Bringing a kingdom of endless peace, we shall call Him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!

Leader: Come, let us see what the Lord has done!

People: Let us celebrate our Christ, our Savior's birth!

Leader: Glory to God in the highest,

People: and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

UNISON PRAYER

God of Surprising Love and Hope, we come this evening to the manger, gazing lovingly on the Child born to bring hope to the world. Open our hearts tonight as we hear the story anew. Help us to be guided by the Light of Jesus Christ, that we may truly feel the power of your love and bring that love, with joy, to all we meet. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN No. 220**

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

7:00 David Platt & family

11:00 The Bryan Family

FIRST LESSON:

SPECIAL MUSIC

Isaiah 9:2-7

“Ave Maria” - David Lyons

SECOND LESSON:

7:00 pm - ANTHEM

11:00 pm - ANTHEM

Luke 2: 1-7

“Star Song” – SonShiners

“Into Hearts He’d Come” - Chancel Choir

THIRD LESSON:

HYMN No. 236 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night”

Luke 2:8-12

FOURTH LESSON:

7:00 “Every Little Angel”

11:00 HYMN 218

Luke 2:13-20

– SonShiners

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

FIFTH LESSON:

HYMN No. 245

Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-11

“The First Noel”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

L: We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.

P: We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.

L: We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world ...

P: and there is a Light for us to follow.

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“O Holy Night” – Becky Platt



***DOXOLOGY “Christmas Doxology”**

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son.

Glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One.

Here we offer to you gladly, all the gifts that you impart,

As we glory in your presence, giving from a grateful heart.

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

***HYMN No. 238**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“CHRISTMAS STORIES”

PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

***HYMN No. 239**

“Silent Night”

7:00 pm Temple Chimes

11:00 pm Cathedral Bells

TOLLING THE CHRISTMAS BELL

BENEDICTION

MUSIC OF PARTING

“Joy to the World”

***Those who are able, please stand.**

Chrismon Definitions are on the table in the Narthex,

If you do not wish to take your bulletin with you, please place it in our recycle box.

Thank you.



POINSETTIAS 2025

Please wait until after the Christmas Eve 11 pm service to take your Poinsettia.

Given By:

Peggy Kooser
Ruth Mance
Alice Hubert
Toni Fetter
Robbie Pritz
Marci Suggars
Shinhea Joe
Sandy Daugherty
Sandy Tyler
Patti McGowan
Donna Weber
Dawn Capecci
Barb Worthington
Sherry Gomboos
Connie Fontana
Terry Yurcisin
Georganne Morgan
Debbie Weaver
Penny Brant
Krista Brown
Connie Bickerstaff
Nancy Welsh
Roger and Eilleen Patterson

In Honor and In Memory of their loved ones.

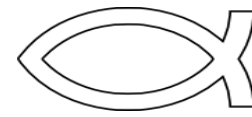
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The Fish is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus), stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Q), Son (Y), Savior (S). Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen.

Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Used together, they symbolize that Christians believe Jesus is the beginning and end of all things.



The White Rose is a symbol for purity and can represent Mary.

The Chi-Rho looks like a 'P' with an 'X' on top of it. These two letters are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos' which means Christ.



The Star of David, sometimes called the Star of Creation, is a symbol that Jesus was a Jew and a descendant of King David.

A Five Pointed Star represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.



The Nativity Star is the symbol of the Star of Bethlehem or Epiphany, when the Wisemen visited Jesus.

An Eight Pointed Star represents baptism and regeneration.

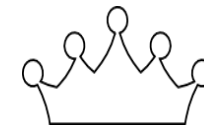


CHRISMONS

Chrismons, meaning "Christ monograms," traditionally are white and gold designs made from Christian symbols that signify Christ. Often displayed on an evergreen tree during the Christmas season, symbols such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, and the alpha and omega remind us of Christ's identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity.

Chrismons were first developed in 1957 by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA.

Many churches today display a Chrismon tree during the Advent and Christmas season decorated with handmade ornaments.



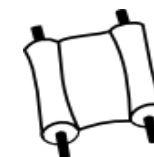
The Crown is the symbol that Jesus is King. It shows that Christians believe Jesus is ruler over heaven and the earth.

The Shepherd's Crook or Staff remembers that Jesus sometimes called himself a shepherd. It can also represent the shepherds who were the first people told about the birth of Jesus.



Both of these symbols represent the Christian 'Trinity' of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. **The Triquetra** is made of three loops making a triangle representing the three parts of the trinity. **The Trefoil** (at the bottom) is three equal circles intertwined to form a whole.

Hands in Prayer help Christians remember that they should pray to God.



The Scroll represents the Bible.

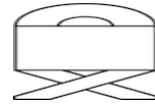
The Dove is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptized.





The Angel reminds Christians of the angels who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus. It can also represent the second coming of Jesus, which the Bible says will start with an Angel blowing a trumpet.

Babe / Manger represents Jesus as a baby at Christmas.



The Lamb is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called 'The Lamb of God'.

The Butterfly is a symbol for transformation and the immortal soul.



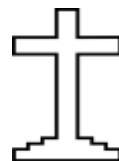
The Heart is a symbol of love and reminds Christians that God is love.

The Lion is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called 'The Lion of Judah'. Jesus is also represented as Aslan the Lion in the Chronicle of Narnia books by C S Lewis.



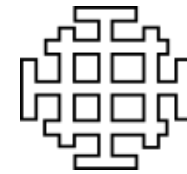
The Cross symbolizes that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a Cross.

The Latin Cross, also sometimes called the Roman Cross. The base of the Cross has three steps that symbolize faith, hope, and love.



The Irish or Celtic Cross is a normal cross with a circle in the middle to symbolize eternity.

The Triumphant Cross represents the earth with the cross on top. It symbolizes Jesus is triumphant over anything we can face in the world.



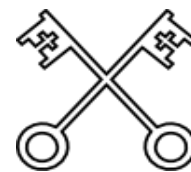
The Jerusalem Cross was worn by the crusaders going to Jerusalem, in the middle ages. It can symbolize the Four Gospels in the Bible, the spread of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth or the five wounds of Jesus when he died on the cross.

The Eastern Cross is used by many Eastern or Orthodox Churches.



The Lamp and The Candle both represents that Christians believe Jesus in the Light of the World.

The Shell is a symbol for baptism. It reminds Christians of the water that they are baptized in. It is also a sign of Pilgrimage, as Pilgrims to the Holy Land (Israel) would use a shell as a drinking vessel.



The Keys are a symbol for the Church in all the world. Jesus told his friend Peter that "I will give you keys to heaven", so this means that Christians have to tell other people about Jesus.

The Furca or Upsilon Cross comes from the Greek letter Y. It is also called The Thieves' Cross from the two robbers who were crucified on each side of Jesus. It also symbolizes the choice between good and evil.



The Anchor Cross reminds Christian's that Jesus is the anchor of their faith.

IHS are the first three letters of 'Jesus' in Greek, this has been used to represent Jesus from the third century. From the middle ages, they also were used in the Latin phrase "Jesus Hominum Salvator" which means "Jesus, Saviour of men". And in English they can mean "In His [Jesus's] Service". I've added them on a Cross as it looks more interesting!



POINSETTIAS 2024

Please wait until after the Christmas Eve 11 pm service to take your Poinsettia.

IN MEMORY OF:

Jack, Mary and Charles Drylie

Carol Rubright

Loved ones

Harold and Mildre Pritz and
Robert Johnston

Our parents

Our parents Chester and June Weber
and Don and Grace Hansel

Bernard Maier & Ann Guth Maier
John and Fannie Como

Chuck and Alda Shields
Jim and Helen Worthington

Ed and Lois Slavin

Elizabeth and Harland Tyler

Our Grandparents

Pro Daugherty

Loved Ones

Linda Bach

Chuck, My Mom, Anthony, and
Grandma Aurick

Lou Berta

Jean and George Rebich

Howard and Alice Brant

GIVEN BY:

Rosemary Drylie

Sherry Gombos

Alice Hubert

Bill and Robbie Pritz

Mark and Becky Rudy

John and Donna Weber

Nancy Welsh

Barb Worthington

Ron and Robbyn Slavin

Sandra Tyler

Hyung-Suk and Shinhea Joe

Sandy Daugherty

Jeff and Marci Suggars

Georganne and Jim Morgan

Toni Fetter

Bill and Bobbi Schaefer

Terri and Tim Yurcisin Family

Jacob, Julia and Jack

IN HONOR OF:

My Mom, Sandra Daugherty

Our Boys and Family

Our Family

Mr. and Mrs William Fishel

FUMC Congregation for their
loving support of the Youth Group

Jerry and Patsy Hood

Fannie and John Como

Our Parents

Family in Heaven

My Sons, My Sister Theresa

GIVEN BY:

Erin Brentzel

The Mlinarich Family

Mark and Becky Rudy

Bob and Debbie Weaver

FUMC Youth Group and
Pastor Ron and Robbyn Slavin

Ron and Robbyn Slavin

Sandra Tyler

Hyung-Suk and Shinhea Joe

Peggy Kooser

Toni Fetter

