

Celebrating the Nativity of the Lord

December 24, 2025 5:00 p.m.

*Congregation is invited to rise if able and comfortable.
Readings in **BOLD** are to be read in unison.

Hymnals: UMH is Red or Purple-TFWS is Black-W&S is Green

Please note that this service is being recorded and viewed on social media.

A special welcome to all who are worshipping with us this evening. May the Christ of Christmas greet each of you in this place, as love is born anew and peace fills the air. This is a family service where children are a blessing and always welcome. To assist their faith journey, there are activity bags and special candles at the entrances to the sanctuary. We invite them to take a bag and return it at the end of our worship. Our children will be invited to participate as we hear the Christmas story.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Angels We Have Heard on High arr. Tonioli
As you settle into the sanctuary, please open your phone and share the live service from your Facebook page as a way of inviting the larger community to worship.

ENTRY TO THE CELEBRATION Hush by Lucinda Hynett

INTROIT Light of the World Daigle
Praise Team

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP
Tonight is the night! Jesus is on the way!
Stars are shining brightly in the sky.
The Child of Peace is coming to us with love that never ends.
The Light of the World shines bright
for children and grown-ups alike.
Come, let us go to Bethlehem with ready hearts and voices to
welcome the newborn Jesus!

*CAROL OF PRAISE O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH 234, vs. 1-3

CHRISTMAS GREETING Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith

CHRISTMAS PRAYER Adapted from Ruth Burgess & Louise Gough
Christmas came simply: a pregnant woman, a worried father, a night birth, and a healthy child. Just God unwrapped, vulnerable, lying in a manger, living in our world.
Bring us again into this beautiful story on this holy night, earth-dwelling God. For tonight we come with wide-eyed wonder. We join the stars as they sing for joy; our hearts echo the music of the angels which filled the skies on the night of your birth. With outrageous humility, you share our humanity; you are our God made flesh revealed among us for all to see. And it takes our breath away. As we gather again to celebrate your birth and proclaim your love, may your peace fill our world and joy transcend all fear on this holiest of nights. Amen.

Engaging with the Christmas Story

INTRODUCING THE ABC’S OF CHRISTMAS Erin Klassen

Shepherd: Let’s Go See!
Wise Ones: Look a Star!
Angels: Hallelujah!
Jesus: JESUS!

A... Luke 1:28-33
REFLECTION Willing Steve Garnaas-Holmes

B – E... Luke 2:1-5
HYMN OF RESPONSE O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230, vs 1-2

F – G... Luke 2:6-7
SPECIAL MUSIC Good News! Everybody Listen! Barrett
Children’s Choir

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Luke 2:8-14
CAROL OF RESPONSE arr. Mott
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
Praise Team

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 angelic host
proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”
And the angels, they sing and the heavens, they ring.
Won’t you raise up your voice? Join the song of the King,
singing glory to God and peace on the earth.
Sing it out now the song of the King.

H... Even the Animals Knew Furda
SPECIAL MUSIC Children’s Choir

I – J... Joy to the World: Unspeakable Joy Tomlin
CAROL OF JOY Praise Team

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.
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.

Joy, unspeakable joy. An overflowing well. No tongue can tell.
Joy, unspeakable joy. It rises in my soul. Never lets me go.

K... No and Yes Roddy Hamilton
REFLECTION

L... Tomlin
CAROL OF RESPONSE
Midnight Clear – Love Song
Praise Team

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Glory to God in the highest. Glory to God evermore.
Good news. Great joy for all.
Melody breaks through the silence. Christ the Savior is born.
Jesus, the love song of God.

M... Dietrich Bonhoeffer
REFLECTION Those Who Go to the Manger will be Transformed

N - O... W&S 3063, vs. 1
CHRISTMAS OFFERING
*PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS
If I Could Visit Bethlehem

If I could visit Bethlehem what presents would I bring?
If I could see what happened then, what would I say or sing?
I wouldn’t take a modern toy but gold to pay for bread,
some wine to give his parents joy and wool to warm his bed.
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Holy God, we sing your praises. Your glorious love shines in the face of Jesus, born a babe in this dark world. We marvel that he generously humbled himself for each one of us. How precious is your gift of love! May the light of our sanctuary and our songs of praise spill through the windows to neighbors dwelling in darkness. May our gifts and offerings reflect the light of Christ and be a beacon of hope in the night, drawing people closer to you. In the name of the Christ child, we pray. Amen.

P...
God’s Children

Christmas Prayer for All

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Star – Child
Lydia Smith, soloist

Young

Q – S...
CAROL OF RESPONSE

Matthew 2:9-11
We Three Kings

UMH 254, vs. 1

T – Z...

*LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS

Star Giving
Plumser & Figueiredo Families

Ann Weems

...and we celebrate the light of Christ coming into the darkness.
Glory to God in the highest!
We give thanks for the brilliance of stars!
We give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ, God with us.

*SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

As we sing *Silent Night*, the ushers will light the candle of the first person in each pew, along with the center aisle. Have your neighbor with the unlit candle dip their candle for their light. Please keep the lit candles upright.

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, 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.

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!

*CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Past Where We Are

R. Hamilton

*CAROL OF JOY

Joy To The World: Unspeakable Joy
Praise Team

arr. Tomlin

No more let sins 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.

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.

Joy, unspeakable joy. An overflowing well. No tongue can tell.
Joy, unspeakable joy. It rises in my soul. Never lets me go.

*POSTLUDE

Our Service of Worship Has Ended
Our Worship Through Service Begins

Words of Welcome

Welcome to this service of worship here at the First UMC of Oakhurst. We pray you have experienced the presence and fellowship of the Divine. If we can be of service to you in any way, please speak with Pastor Jill, an usher, or any of our members. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining this community, where we help each other grow in faith, love, and service.

A Special Thank You to those Leading us in Worship

Our Children’s Choir: Isla Collins, Alexander Collins, Adriana Figueiredo, & Ian Furda
Our Praise Team: Meg Macan, Lydia Smith, David Furda, Jack Coleman, John Tocci, & Rob Crowther

Garry Smity, Worship Leader
Denise Furda, Music Director
Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith, Pastor

Christmas Continues...

Sunday, December 28th at 9:30 a.m.
Singing the Story of Christmas: The 12 Days of Christmas
Message & Carol Sing with a Blessing of the Toys

Sunday, January 4th at 9:30 a.m. – Epiphany Sunday

John Wesley Covenant Service and Communion

This service will include a consecration of our newly elected leadership for 2026 AND Diaper Drive...the congregation is invited to bring diapers to the manger for Maker’s Place, a UM ministry in Trenton, NJ. Every diaper donated, Pastor Jill will match.



5:00 Family Christmas Eve Service

First UMC of Oakhurst

...is a community of faith committed to Christ, seeking to learn the needs of others and responding with Christian love.

9:30 a.m. Worship Every Sunday Morning In Person & Streaming

103 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst, NJ 07755

732-531-1150

FUMCOakhurst@outlook.com

Oakhurst.umchurches.org

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOakhurst>

Follow us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchofOakhurst>

CCLI #1588788