

Celebrating the Nativity of the Lord

December 24, 2025 11:00 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.

WE GATHER

THE PRELUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Jergensen
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.

THE INVITATION INTO THE NIGHT *Silent Night, Holy Night* Joyce Rupp

THE INTROIT *Still, Still, Still* arr. McIntyre
Lydia Smith, Soloist

*THE INVITATION TO WORSHIP By Roddy Hamilton

We wait in the night, in the hush that only stars can hold
as they bend toward the coming of the light;

**we wait in the night laboring with anticipation
of what midnight shall bring;**

we wait in the night listening to the cadence of minutes
beat in rhythm with the birth of hope;

**we hold our collective breaths with the angelic host
as they clutch their restless alleluias,**

for God is on the way:

the mother is laboring, the father pacing, the stable readying

the word waiting, the light sliding

and the promise is breaking through.

We wait in the longing for midnight in expectation of Good News;

we choose to wait together

and find we have moved to the edge of our seats,

for in such anticipation is the only place

for the Word to be born among us.

*THE CAROL OF PRAISE UMH 220, vs. 1-2

Angels from the Realms of Glory

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Now in the silence of this holy night, whispers of joy come into life.

**Now in the comfort of carols, songs of hope take away the despair
which envelops us. Now in familiar words heard anew, grace is born**

**into our barren spaces of our lives and peace is birthed in the
shadows of our fears. Now in the love which is ours forever, draw us**

**closer to your heart, so we can be surprised by wonder, swaddled in
serenity, and embraced by tenderness. Now touch us once again**

with the beautiful message of Christmas. Amen

We Hear the Christmas Story

THE ANNUNCIATION *Luke 1:26-31, 38*

THE SPECIAL MUSIC *Mary Did You Know* arr. Page
Carillon Choir

THE BIRTH *Luke 2:1-7*

THE CHRISTMAS ANTHEM *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy* arr. Robinson
Chancel Choir

THE MESSAGE *Luke 2:8-14*

THE CAROL OF CELEBRATION *What Child Is This* UMH 219, vs. 1-2

THE MANGER *Luke 2:15-16*

THE SPECIAL MUSIC *O Holy Night* Adam
Joy More, Soloist

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Rev. Jill Hubbard-Smith
*Singing the Story of Christmas:
Silent Night, Holy Night*

THE MUSICAL REFLECTION *Stille Nacht* Gruber
Lydia Smith, Soloist

THE REFLECTION *I Am Silent...and Expectant* Ted Loder

We Celebrate Holy Communion

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

THE INVITATION

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord Jesus, this most holy of nights brings us gladness, grief,
and joy. Gladness, because you left the splendor of Heaven’s glory
to come to a dark and cold world, to bring the light and warmth of
your Kingdom to a world in need of your love, your peace, and your
joy. Grief, because you came into the world, yet the world did not
receive you. You came to your own, and your own did not welcome
you. Still today, we so often turn away from you. And joy, because
you offer perfect forgiveness to all who acknowledge their need of
you. Cleanse my heart tonight, Lord Jesus, so that I may welcome
you as I long to...**

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the God of silent nights be with you!

May the God of heralding angels be with you!

Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

**May our voices blend with those of the angels
and shepherds.**

...For great joy has come to us this night, swaddled in grace, hope,
and love; and we sing praises to you on this holy Christmas night...

**“Angels we Have Heard on High” UMH 238, refrain only
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

...and so, on this night we sing of the baby in the manger as we
proclaim the mystery called incarnation...

**“Angels we Have Heard on High” UMH 238, refrain only
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE SHARING THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP OF SALVATION

The invitation to share God’s covenant love was born this night and is extended to
all. Come and be filled, knowing you are beloved and rooted in that love as you go
forth to bring light and love to all God’s children. You are invited to come by the
center aisle, kneel or stand at the chancel rail to receive a piece of bread, then dip
it into the cup that will follow. Return to your seats by the side aisles. You are
invited to reflect in song as all are being served. Gluten-free is available, just ask
Pastor Jill.

THE CAROLS DURING COMMUNION

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly UMH 229
There’s a Song in the Air UMH 249

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Kate Compston

**Thank you, God for giving yourself to the world, not in the
powerful and extraordinary, but in weakness and the familiar. In a
baby; in bread and fruit of the vine. Thank you for offering a new
beginning; for setting in the poverty of a stable, the richest jewel of
your love. For revealing, in a particular place, your light for all
nations. Thank you, for bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread,
where the empty are filled and the filled are emptied. Where the
poor find riches and the rich recognize their poverty. Where all who
kneel and hold out their hands are unstintingly fed. Amen**

THE CHRISTMAS ANTHEM *Love Found a Way* arr. Lau
Chancel Choir

We Respond To The Story

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

Tune: *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

God's love and grace at Bethlehem in Jesus' birth was shown:
the Prince of Peace from heaven was given to God's own.
Our money, selves, and inward joy will make the glad truth known:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Receive our joy and make of it *wonder*. Receive our gratitude
and make of it *humility*. Receive our love and make of it
compassion. Make of us, and of the gifts we now offer, vessels of
praise and evidence of generosity so that no one doubts the
incredible breadth of your love. Amen.

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE WORLD The Tanta-Nanta Family
Taken From John 1 & Isaiah 9

*THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

As we sing Silent Night, Holy 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!

*THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING *Luke 2:17-20*

Let us go to be the gift another needs,
sharing God's blessings of love and grace,
running to share the Story we heard from the shepherds.
Let us go to be the comfort which can swaddle others,
sharing Jesus' compassion with the poor and needy,
welcoming the holiness offered by the most vulnerable we meet.

Let us go to kindle the lives around us,
sharing the Spirit's peace with all the broken,
learning the language of hope from the children in our midst.

*THE CAROL OF JOY *Joy to the World* UMH 246
*THE POSTLUDE *Il est Né le Divin Enfant* arr. Goemanne

***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.

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 will be having a diaper drive during
these 12 days of Christmas, concluding on Epiphany

Sunday, January 4th. This drive will help support a UM ministry, Maker's Place
in Trenton. For every diaper brought to the manger of the newborn Jesus,
Pastor Jill will match.



Christmas Eve Service

Singing the Story of Christmas

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

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