

## Christmas Eve Service

5:30 PM

December 24, 2022

*The liturgical color white can symbolize the purity of the Christ-child.*

### Gathering in God's Presence

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Leader: Jesus comes to each one of us, healing and restoring our lives!

**People: Praise be to God for God's mighty gift to us.**

Leader: *Let us pray:* Glorious God, who presents us with the most precious of gifts, we praise you for all your blessings in our lives. Tonight we have come to this place, in the midst of a busy time. We might not even have everything ready at home, yet we have come, because we ourselves need to be ready. Work in our hearts this night, preparing us for your presence. Work in our lives that we may reach out to others in comfort and compassion; work in our world that the darkness that has encompassed it may be dispelled by the brightness of your love and your Gift. In faith and expectation, we pray. We wait in eager anticipation, for the glory of your salvation this night. Amen.

+Gathering Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230 (all)

+Affirmation of Faith #881 (UMH) The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Special Music "In the Bleak Midwinter" Buddy Leaphart

Lighting of the Advent Candle

+Hymn

"Away in a Manger"

#217 (all)

Christmas Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer #895 (UMH)

**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.**

### Proclamation

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Homily

Rev. Angela Etheredge-Erwin

Special Music

"Hallelujah"

Katie Tetanich

+The Great Thanksgiving

#12-15 (UMH)

### Lighting of the Candles

*At this time, the lights will be turned off in the sanctuary. The Pastor and congregation will turn their candles on. We will sing Silent Night during this process.*

+Candle-lighting Hymn

#239(UMH)

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 haven afar, heavenly host 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 thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
4. Silent night, holy night, wonderous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

+Dismissal with a blessing

*(You may turn your candle off as you leave the sanctuary, place your candle in the basket at the exit, following the Dismissal with Blessing. Please depart silently out of respect for those that may want to remain for prayer and reflection.)*

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**SHILOH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
1000 Spring Hill Road – Gilbert, South Carolina 29054  
Website: [www.shilohumc.church](http://www.shilohumc.church)

*Pastor*

**Rev. Angela Etheredge-Erwin**  
Email: [ametheredge-erwin@umcsc.org](mailto:ametheredge-erwin@umcsc.org)

Office: 803-892-5656  
Home: 803-270-5134

*Director of Music Ministries, Organist*

**Lois Vanderstelt**

*Director of Children & Youth*

**Malachi Alexander** (cell) 803-729-3651)

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*Merry*  
*Christmas*  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR