

AN EVENING AT THE MANGER

ST. LUKE'S  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



December 24, 2009—5:00 p.m.

Preludes "Away In a Manger" - Setting by Douglas Wagner  
"Gesu Bambino" - Juliet Calkins  
"Stille Nacht" - David Paxton

Lighting of the Christ Candle— Tonight our Advent journey is complete. We come celebrating the hope, the love, the joy and the peace that only Christ can give. So, tonight we light the Christ Candle.

Call to Worship

L: In the Name of God the Father,

**C: Our Creator—maker of all that is, seen and unseen.**

L: In the name of God the Son,

**C: Our Redeemer—born this night and heralded by angels**

L: In the name of God the Holy Spirit

**C: Our Sanctifier, who gives us the power to proclaim and praise the name of Jesus. Amen.**

L: We come now to worship!

\*Hymn No. 234 (v. 1 & 4) UMH

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

## An Evening at the Manger

### **Reading 1—Welcome and Setting — The Manger**

It was on that dark night long ago, that the face of all history was changed. We invite you now to come with us as we experience in a very unique way the Christmas Story as told through Scripture, song, and drama. We also invite you to follow along in your program praying with us and singing with us.

About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago, Bethlehem had been King David's hometown and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

Hymn No. 2097 TFWS      *"One Holy Night in Bethlehem"*

### **Reading 2 – Mary , Joseph, and the Baby**

Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn No. 217 (v. 1, 2 & 3) UMH      *"Away in a Manger"*

### **Reading 3 - The Shepherds**

That night in the fields near Bethlehem, some shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I have great news for you that will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown, a savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay.

Hymn No. 236 (v. 1 & 2) UMH  
*"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"*

### **Reading 4 —The Angels Appears to the Shepherds**

Suddenly, many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said: "Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.

## An Evening at the Manger

Hymn No. 220 (v. 1 & 2) UMH

*“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

### **Reading 5 – The Shepherds Go to Find the Baby**

After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other: “Let us go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about.” They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and they saw the baby lying on a bed of hay. When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. Everyone listened and was surprised. But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant. As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen was just as the angel had said.

Hymn No. 2096 TFWS *“Rise Up Shepherds and Follow”*

### **Reading 6 – The Wise People**

There were Wise people from the east that followed a star. They were thrilled and excited to see that the star stopped over the place where the child was. When they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and gave them to him.

Hymn No. 254 (v. 1, 3 & 4) UMH

*“We Three Kings”*

## ***The Great Thanksgiving***

Communion Setting A page 17, UMH

*[Participants in tonight's pageant will be dismissed from the chancel to receive Communion with their parents/guardians. Members of the congregation, please come to the nearest communion station, and stand to receive the bread and cup. A server will place the bread in your hand, after which you dip the bread into the chalice and partake. After receiving, return to your seats, or kneel at the rail, for meditation and prayer. Notify an usher if you need assistance, or if you need to receive the sacrament at your seat. Monetary gifts for our Christmas Miracle Offering may be left in the baskets at the alter rail and will support our Good Samaritan Fund that assists needy friends and neighbors in York County and Poquoson.]*

\*Recessional Hymn No 431 UMH *“Let there Be Peace on Earth”*

**\*Benediction**

Go forth now with the peace of Christ this Christmastime. Share that peace with all that you meet, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude "O Come All Ye Faithful" - Setting by John Behnke

*\*standing, as able*

*After the benediction, please return your costumes to Rooms 19 or 21. Thank you.*

**Abbreviation Key**

*UMH—The United Methodist Hymnal*

*TFWS—The Faith We Sing*

*We, the members of*

***St. Luke's***

***United Methodist Church,***

*are an inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith seeking through worship, prayer, service, education and fellowship to respond creatively to God's call to welcome, love and care for others.*



**St. Luke's**

**United Methodist Church**

300 Ella Taylor Road

Yorktown, VA 23692

[www.stlukesyorktown.org](http://www.stlukesyorktown.org)