

**Wesley United Methodist Church – Bloomington, Illinois**  
***Unto You Is Born This Day a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.***  
**Christmas Eve 2020**

Greeting

Organ Prelude

*Fantasy on Two Well-Known Christmas Carols – West*  
Dennis Gotkowski, organist

Introit

*Carol of the Bells/God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen – arr. Larson*  
Celebration Ringers, previously recorded December 22, 2019

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Christmas Carol Medley

UMH #234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful vs. 1 and 6*  
UMH #219 *What Child Is This vs. 1 and 3*  
UMH #254 *We Three Kings vs. 1 and 5*  
UMH #245 *The First Noel vs. 1 and 2*

Children's Time

Kamden and Addelyn Sherrill, Jayci Tomera, Mason, Graham and Sophie Sutimek, Chloe Thompson and Christian, Gabriel, and Charlie Keating.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

**2** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

#### Sermon

*Unto You Is Born This Day a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*  
Rev. Sara L. Isbell

#### Special Music

*O Holy Night* - arr. Michel Rondeau (permission from CCS)  
Allison Stoia, soprano  
*Thanks to Partituras Interactivas for the accompaniment track,*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=v0ue01fOF8Y>

#### Invitation to and Blessing of the Offering

#### Christmas Carol Medley

UMH #240 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing vs. 1 and 3*  
UMH #217 *Away in a Manger vs. 1 and 2*  
UMH #230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 1 and 4*

#### Service of Holy Communion

#### Communion Music

*Pavane* – Faure  
Craig Deets, organ

#### Prayer after Receiving

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### Closing Hymn

UMH #239 *Silent Night, Holy Night*  
Ellen Hagen, piano; Kimberly Martin-Boyd, cello; Rex Moore, harp

#### Blessing

#### Merry Christmas from the Staff

Worship Participants  
Reverend Sara L. Isbell, Senior Pastor  
Reverend Justin Iverson, Associate Pastor  
Dennis Gotkowski, Organist

Craig Deets, Organist  
Kathi Pritts, Children's Time  
Brenna Martin, Hymn Singer

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES**

#### **Sunday, December 27**

Pastor of Visitation, Sally Hamon will lead us in worship on this first Sunday of Christmas. Her sermon will be entitled "Memories," and centers on the story of the Baby Jesus presented at the Temple, Luke 2:22-38.

#### **Sunday, January 3**

Retired Pastor, Vaughn Hoffman will lead us in the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service as we begin the new year. The service will include John Wesley's Covenant Prayer.

**Worship services will be posted on the website at 9:00 a.m. ([www.wesley-umc.com](http://www.wesley-umc.com))**

### **Paint the Town Wesley**

#### **December 30 - A Treat and a Tale**

Join Early Childhood Ministries Coordinator, Liz Tomera, for an evening story and hot chocolate at 6pm on Wednesday, December 30th via Zoom.

Let's wrap up this year by sitting down with our Church family, sharing a snack, and listening to a good book!

#### **January 6 – Chalk Your Door**

January 6 is Epiphany –the day we remember the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. But this year we can do more than just "remember"; we can welcome the wisemen ourselves and ask God's blessing upon our own homes for 2021! Find a piece of chalk and plan to join us in an European tradition: marking our doorways in the new year! This event will be the Wednesday daily devotion – a link can be found on our website, [www.wesleyumc.com](http://www.wesleyumc.com)

### **2020 Missions Advent Offering**

Make an impact in the lives of people in our community, state, and country by giving to the Missions Advent Offering. This offering will support the work of local social service organizations, Illinois Great Rivers Conference Golden Cross ministries, and domestic missions. You can find information about each organization on our website (<https://www.wesley-umc.com/2020/11/2020-missions-advent-offering/>). Contributions can be made by mail to 502 E. Front St. Bloomington IL 61701 or through the website. [www.wesley-umc.com/give](http://www.wesley-umc.com/give) Be sure to mark your contribution for Advent Offering.

***Give as you can. Every donation is appreciated.***