

CHRISTMAS EVE  
**Welcome Home**

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERIES



South Hill United Methodist Church  
December 24, 2021

# Christmas Eve

## Entrance

Prelude	<i>Variations on I Saw Three Ships</i>	Payne
* Hymn	<i>Once in David's Royal City</i>	UMH 250
* The Bidding Prayer		
Lighting of the Christ Candle		



## The Word

First Reading	Genesis 3:8-19	
Carol	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	UMH 196
Second Reading	Genesis 22:15-18	
Carol	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> <i>stanzas 1, 2, 4, 7</i>	UMH 211
Third Reading	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	
Carol	<i>Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming</i> <i>stanzas 1, 2</i>	UMH 216
Fourth Reading	Micah 5:2-5a	
Carol	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	UMH 230
Fifth Reading	Luke 1:26-38	
Carol	<i>To a Maid Engaged to Joseph</i>	UMH 215
Sixth Reading	Luke 2:1-7	
Special Music	<i>Sweet Little Jesus Boy</i>	Gavin Honeycutt
Seventh Reading	Luke 2:8-16	
Carol	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	
Eighth Reading	Matthew 2:1-11	
Carol	<i>We Three Kings</i>	UMH 254
Ninth Reading	John 1:1-14	
Special Music	<i>Christmas Eve in Sarajevo</i>	Sophie Crowder

# Christmas Message

*Welcome Home*

## Response to the Word

Special Music

*O Holy Night*

Elizabeth Black

The Invitation

Prayer of Confession

**Lord Jesus Christ, you are loving and merciful.  
Forgive us for being so captivated by Christmas  
that we forget that you, the little baby in the manger,  
grew up as the Lord over all creation.**

**It is sometimes easier to leave you in the manger  
than it is to reckon with your difficult teachings  
and fierce challenges.**

**So often we do not follow these teachings,  
and we do not live up to your challenges.**

**We need your grace and your strength  
to follow you more closely.**

**Forgive us for all of our sins, as we continue to pray in  
silence...**

*(Silent prayers)*

*In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*The peace of Christ be with you*

**And also with you.**



## The Great Thanksgiving

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*It is right....*

*...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Holy are you...*

*...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*Pour out your Holy Spirit...*

*...all honor and glory is your, almighty God, now and for ever.*

**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Breaking the Bread

Sharing in the Bread and the Cup

Communion Meditation      *Carol Medley*      Sophie and Ava Crowder

Prayer after Communion

**Lord Jesus, no words can express our gratitude and  
amazement that you should die for us.**

**How amazing is it that each of our lives is so valuable to  
you that you would give up heaven to come and be one  
of us, ultimately laying down your very life to reach us.**

**May the bread and wine remain with us as we seek to  
take your message of love and grace and light into the  
world. Amen.**

## Going Forth

### \* Passing of the Light of Christ

*(The person on the end should dip the unlit candle into the flame, and then pass the light down the pew, each person tilting the unlit candle into the flame as one bows one's heart before God to receive the fire of the Holy Spirit.)*

### \* Carol

#### *“Silent Night”*

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!

*Please depart when you are ready and reassemble on the steps outside.*

## **South Hill United Methodist wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas!**

*We pray for you to know Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, in ways that change your life, strengthen your service, and mark you as a faithful and reliable friend in the year ahead.*

*We invite you to benefit from the fellowship and ministries of South Hill UMC, by joining in our weekly worship services at 8:45 and 11:00 am and learning in one of our Sunday School classes. We hope you will participate in our weekly prayer fellowship, Bible study, and ministry groups.*

**Communion will be served tonight** in a Covid-sensitive way. Each server will sanitize before handling Communion elements. Please come as you feel led by the Holy Spirit to either the front or rear of the sanctuary, receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice. Please place the used cup in the altar rail or empty tray. In the Methodist tradition, we use unfermented grape juice. All who desire a relationship with Christ and fellow Christians are welcome to receive Communion, regardless of church membership or lack thereof. Feel free to spend time at the prayer rail as long as you desire.

### **Our offering tonight will go to United Methodist Family Services.**

United Methodist Family Services is an unwavering champion for high-risk children and families in Virginia. UMFS serves children in foster care and children struggling with mental health and behavioral challenges. They provide foster care and adoptive programs, specialized education schools, and mental health programs. Your support of UMFS through this offering will help high-risk children achieve a brighter future. Thank you for supporting this transformative ministry.

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### **South Hill United Methodist Church**

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