



**COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

REACH, GROW, SEND **WITH GOD'S LOVE**

**December 24, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve**

Prayers for all of us during this time we are physically separated one from another.

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Riva

Silent Meditation *(Let us all be in silent meditation as the candles are lit)*

Prelude

“Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child”
Elaine Hill, Sharon Ruhnke

Traditional African American

Call to Worship

Veronica and Stacy Johnson

Voice 1: Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.

Voice 2: In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

Voice 1: Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

Voice 2: God is truly with us. We are not alone.

Both: Thanks be to God!

Hymn #234

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*v. 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;*

*refrain O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*v. 2 True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;*

refrain

*v. 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;*

refrain

*v. 4 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;*

refrain

Opening Prayer

Andy Bixler

Our Christmas Affirmation

Pastor Riva

Response A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

The Prophecy of the Messiah

Pastor Riva

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NRSV)

John 1:1-2, 4-5 (NRSV)

Response Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,
Almighty God, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel.

Gift of Music "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" Bob McGee
Elaine Hill, Sharon Ruhnke

The Coming of Jesus is Announced to Joseph & Mary Sharon & Dennis Ruhnke
Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)
Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

Hymn #210 "All Earth is Waiting"

- v. 1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord. All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
- v. 2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel," for his name is "God with us," our brother shall be, with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.
- v. 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain; open new highways, new highways for the Lord. He is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
- v. 4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared, yet feel his presence throughout the world today, for he lives in all Christians and is with us now; again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus Stacy Johnson
Luke 2:1-5 (NRSV)

Hymn #230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

- v. 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- v. 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning starts together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
- v. 3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- v. 4 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.

Jesus is Born Veronica Johnson
Luke 2:1-5 (NRSV)

Hymn #217 "Away in a Manger"

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People: 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.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

People: Our (Creator/God/Mother/Father) in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking The Bread

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Partaking Of The Communion At Home

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by him.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Coming up this week:

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)

Sunday, December 27

10:00 a.m. [Joint Worship – Minnesota UMC \(Minnesota UMC FB\)](#)

Wednesday, December 30

6:00 p.m. [Charge Conference - Zoom](#)

Sunday, January 3 – Epiphany

10:00 a.m. [Worship – Worship Broadcast \(FB\)](#)

Church Office Closed: The church office will be closed from Christmas Eve through New Year's Day. Martha will be back in the office January 5.

"**Hope Made Real**"--please join us for worship on Sunday Dec. 27th, 10 a.m., when we have the opportunity to share in an online MN Annual Conference collaborative worship service. In the service, made recently as part of the Christmas season, we will hear the stories of real hope shared by our District Superintendents, as well as uplifting music from congregations and musicians across the state. We will have the worship link ready to share next week, in the congregational email for Dec. 27th, as well as on our FaceBook page. Worshipping this way can give us a sense of the wider UMC in MN, as well as hear the diverse stories and experiences of some of our Annual Conference leaders.

Tech support ministry: If you need help in checking out your electronic devices in order to participate in our virtual service, send us (office@communitymethodistchurch.org or leadpastor@communitymethodistchurch.org) a note and we can send someone to come check it out for you (following safety guidelines and protocol).

Emergency Phone Number: If you need to contact the pastors for an emergency that cannot wait until the office phone is checked, we have added an emergency phone number: 612-757-7115. This is a cell phone that goes to the pastor on call.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Adult Bible Study venue will no longer be at the John Wesley Room in response to Bishop Ough's appeal. Watch out for new procedures about this gathering.

Giving Options:

Electronic Giving has two options. One is using the app **Give+** on your smartphone (Android or iPhone), or via the church website. Check out the videos at:

<https://communitymethodistchurch.org/online-giving/> .

Otherwise, mailing in a check works great (950 Gould Ave NE, Columbia Heights, 55421).



Our Vision

*We are an urban, intergenerational, inclusive,
and welcoming Christian fellowship woven
into the fabric of our community.*

Community UMC's

Statement of Reconciliation:

Community United Methodist Church of Columbia Heights believes that we are all children of God, individuals of sacred worth, created in God's image with our many differences, and that God loves all people. We recognize that God's love is not limited by boundaries. Therefore, we welcome and affirm people of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, physical capabilities, or mental abilities.

We believe that prejudice, hatred, or discrimination directed toward any individual or group is contrary to the life, spirit, and teaching of Jesus Christ. We have vowed to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression. Therefore, we shall work to eliminate prejudice and discriminatory practices within ourselves and our community, and to show God's grace.

We proclaim ourselves a Reconciling Congregation and welcome all who seek a relationship with God.

Adopted November 3, 2019

Our Staff

Lead Pastor	Pastor Riva Tabelisma
Teaching Pastor	Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud
Ministers	All the Congregation
Office Manager	Martha Bentley
Music Director	Dan Ritter
Bell Choir Director	Karen Schneider

Church Office Phone: 763-788-9009

Emergency/Pastor Contact Phone Number: 612-757-7115

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