

**\*Postlude** *In Dulci Jubilo*  
*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*  
Postlude on *Deck the Halls*  
*Carol Rhapsody*

J.S. Bach  
arr. Emma Lou Diemer  
arr. Jean Pasquet  
R. Purvis

**Assisting in this Evening's Service**

Diane Hires, Chancel Choir director  
Pattie Barnes, Organist/pianist & Chancel Choir accompanist  
The Chancel Choir

**Handbell Musicians**

John Barnes, Nancy Bifulco, Kim Bosch, Gwen Clore, Ryan Doherty, Carolyn Donnelly, Chris Dortwegt, Susan Hogan, Karen Owen, Nancy Poch

**Audio Visual Assistance** Jim Gracey, Jack Phillips

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**Sunday Worship Schedule**  
**December 26**  
**One service at 10:00 a.m.**

There will be no 8:15 a.m. service this Sunday.

We will be "Jammin' in our Jammies" as we celebrate through song and praise for this service! We invite you to wear your pajamas for a final chance for one more Sunday of Christmas cheer!

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CCLI # 2894634

Livestreaming #13815

***\*Please rise as you are able.***  
***Bold text indicates congregational response.***



# Living Our Faith

December 24, 2021 – 9:00 p.m. Worship Service



**Downers Grove First United Methodist Church**

Senior Pastor: Claude R. King, Sr.

Associate Pastor: Andi Voinovich

Director of Christian Education: John Smoke

Pastor of Youth Ministries: Wesley Dorr

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**Prelude** *Quem Pastores* Healy Willan  
Variations on *Adeste Fideles* T. Adams  
Variations on *Sussex Carol* Raymond Haan  
*Bring a Torch* David Williams

**Gathering** Tolling of the Bell  
Words of Welcome

**Lighting of the Advent Candles** Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 12:10  
Wes and Brennan Dorr, and Charlotte Kovac

*Reader 1:* Now the salvation and the power and the kin-dom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come. Help us to share your peace and love with others and live our lives more like Christ every day.

*Reader 2:* On this most holy day we light all four candles in our Advent wreath, and we are reminded of the Expectation, Preparation, Proclamation, and Revelation of Christ's coming!

**All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Anthem** *Christmas Day* Gustav Holst  
Chancel Choir

### Opening Prayer

**Now in the silence, whisper of joy which comes into every life. Now in the comfort of carols, sing of hope which takes away the despair which envelops us. Now in familiar words heard anew, speak to us of grace which is born into barren lives, of peace which is birthed in war's shadowed fears. Now leaning next to those who have always been a part of us, and those from whom we have been apart, remind us of your heart which always accepts us, always welcomes us. Now in the love which is ours forever, draw us closer to your heart, so we can be surprised by wonder, swaddled in serenity, embraced by tenderness. Now touch us once again with Christmas, God in Community. Amen.**

– Thom Shuman

**The Lord's Prayer** Hymnal #895

**Scripture Reading** Luke 2:1–7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

**Hymn #238** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Scripture Reading** Luke 2:8–14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offering**

**Offertory** *Still Still Still* arr. Josh Evanovich

**\*Doxology #238** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Refrain only)

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Scripture Reading** Luke 2:15–20

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Homily** Pastor Andi

**Carol #251** *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Candle Lighting**

The light of the Christ Candle will be passed to each person in the congregation. To receive the light, tip your unlighted candle to the upright lighted candle of the person next to you. This will help keep wax from dripping on you. After all candles are lit, we will sing *Silent Night, Holy Night*. Please raise your candles on the last verse of *Silent Night*.

**Carol #239** *Silent Night, Holy Night*  
(Please extinguish your candles by waving your bulletin over the flame!)

**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 Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour 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!**

**The Ringing in of Christmas**

**\*Carol #246** *Joy to the World*  
**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

**\*Christmas Benediction**