



REVEALED!

This Epiphany, join us as we explore some of the parables of Jesus. Jesus used parables to reveal truths about the kingdom of God. Come...with “ears to hear” and see what Jesus reveals!



AB Penguin Plunge

Join us on 1/1/2024 in Atlantic Beach to experience an exhilarating start to the New Year! Bring your family, friends & coworkers to register as First Methodist Morehead City (largest group wins!) and wear a costume (best costume wins!) and support a local Carteret County Charity: the ECHS Marching Mariners. Help us win the award for the largest civic organization. You can register online at <https://penguin-plunge.org>.



First Methodist Mobile and TV App

We are glad that you have joined us for our Christmas Eve worship service. We would love for you to connect with us through our mobile app for you to access online services, events, small groups, volunteer opportunities, the Bible, and digital giving. Worship services, Kid’s Sunday school resources, and sermon podcasts are also available on our Roku TV app.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

7:00 PM

www.firstmethodist.life

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

† HYMN “Angels From the Realms of Glory” No. 220
Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

WORDS OF INVITATION

Let us hear anew the age-old Christmas story, as recounted in
Scripture and song. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

FIRST LESSON Titus 2:11-14

†HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” No. 230
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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

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.

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 Immanuel!

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-20

SPECIAL MUSIC “The Snow Lay on the Ground” McDonald
The Chancel Choir

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE “Making Room” Pastor Sarah

†HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

No.217

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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.

(The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation and concludes:)
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
We praise your name and join 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.**

(The pastor continues the thanksgiving; recalls the institution of the Lord's Supper,
and concludes:)
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim
the mystery of faith.

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

(The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit, praises the Trinity, and concludes:)
All honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Jesus is God's gift for all people. Tonight we celebrate the fact that a
Savior is born for each of us. Therefore all are welcome to come and
receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus calls and welcomes you
to this sacred meal. The ushers will guide the congregation to the chancel
rail in two lines. As you arrive, you will be given a piece of bread, which
you can dip in the chalice. Please return to your seats the side aisles.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (In Unison)

Loving God, we rejoice that through the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, you
entered this world and dwelt among us. We give thanks, as well, that on
this night, through the mystery of Holy Communion, we have experienced
your presence anew. For your grace that feeds our souls and nourishes our
lives we are grateful. Help us now to become vessels of mercy that we
might share the good news of your presence and your love to others. We
pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “O Holy Night” Parker Morris, soloist

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*The pastors will light their candles from the Christ candle and then the
candles of the ushers. The ushers will then light the candles of those nearest
the center aisle in each row. As you receive the light, please pass it on to the
next person.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN “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!

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE