

# Angels Among Us

#DoNotBeAfraid



*Flying in the Face Fear at Christmas*

**December 24, 2024**

**5:30pm**

Christmas Eve

**“#DoNotBeAfraid”**

**WE GATHER**

**Introduction & Candle-Lighting**

**Do not be afraid**

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Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,

**Light your flame of love in us this day.**

Grant us openness to hear your message.

**Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world,  
creating more love in the midst of fear.**

## **Joy to the World (Joyful Joyful)<sub>I</sub>**

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

**REFRAIN: We will sing, sing, sing**  
**Joy to the world!**  
**We will sing, sing, 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 (Refrain)

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

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the Sun above  
(Refrain)

**\*Passing the Peace**

# WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

**Scripture Message**

recalling Luke 1 & Matthew 1

**\*Carol**

Angels We Have Heard on High  
trad. French carol

UMH #238

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains

**REFRAIN: Gloria! In excelsis Deo!  
Gloria! In excelsis Deo!**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
(Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King  
(Refrain)

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid while our hearts in love we raise (Refrain)

**Sermon**

**“Do Not Be Afraid”**

Rev. Jon Snape

# WE RESPOND

**Offering & Offertory**

Noel

*SUMC Praise Band*

**\*Doxology**

tune of "O Come O Come Emmanuel"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Invitation to the Table & Silent Confession**

**I believe there are angels among us  
Sent down to us from somewhere up above  
They come to you and me in our darkest hour  
To show us how to live, teach us how to give,  
And guide us with the light of love**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*responses on screen*

**We believe there are angels among us  
Called within us, not just from up above  
You give us hope enough in these times of trial  
You show us how to live, You teach us how to give  
You call us to be light and love**

**Receiving Bread and Cup**

## Carol

## Midnight Clear (Love Song)<sub>2</sub>

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing

**REFRAIN: Glory to God in the highest!**  
**Glory to God evermore!**  
**Good news, great joy for all**  
**Melody breaks through the silence**  
**Christ the Savior is born!**  
**Jesus, the love song of God**

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world  
And man at war with man hears not  
The love song which they bring  
Oh hush the noise and cease the strife, and hear the angels sing  
(Refrain)

## WE GO FORTH

### \*Gospel Proclamation

John 1:1-5, 14

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

# \*Song of Awe

# Silent Night

UMH #239

hymn by Joseph Mohr; Tune: STILLE NACHT by Franz Gruber

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

**Do not be afraid**  
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