

**EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH**

**United Church of Christ**

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

15 West Church Street • Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-662-2762 • www.erucc.org

**Christmas Eve 2021 • 5:30 p.m.**

*Merry Christmas! This service is designed to be welcoming of children. Please don't worry about your children being children. Feel free to come and go as needed. As young and old journey tonight to Bethlehem's manger, pray that Christ may come with power and grace this Christmas. We're glad you're here! We wish you a BLESSED CHRISTMAS DAY.*

**Prelude** *Angels*

- J. Brickman

**Welcome**

**Carol** *O Come All Ye Faithful*

**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!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Prayer** *(in unison)*

**O God, we come filled with excitement to hear again the Christmas story, on this holiest of nights. Open wide the crowded inns of our hearts, that we may see with new eyes, what happened that night so long ago. Open our ears that we may hear your voice in the voices of those around us. Fill us with wonder and mystery that we may experience your presence with us now, we pray. Amen.**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

*Jessica and Oliver Blood*

**The Christmas Story**

**The Nativity** Luke 2: 1-7

**Carol** *Away in a Manger*

**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 in the hay.**

**The News to the Shepherds** Luke 2: 8-12

**Carol** *The First Nowell*

**The first Nowell, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.**

**The Angel Chorus** Luke 2: 13-14

**Carol** *Angels We Have Heard On High*

**Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo**

**The Shepherd's Respond** Luke 2: 15-20

**A Christmas Story**

**Blessing of the Children** *Silent Night*

- arr. J. Brickman

**Christmas Prayer and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

**Offering** *"Happy Birthday" to Jesus*

**Closing Hymn** *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.**

**Blessing**

**Going Out Music** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

- arr. J. Carter

*We wish you a Blessed Christmas Day!*