

*Our Mission:  
Love God  
Love Others  
Make Disciples*



*Our Vision:  
Be the hands  
and feet  
of Christ*

**Northgate United Methodist Church**

**December 24, 2021**

**Christmas Eve**

**Sermon Series: Come Home for Christmas (Part 4 of 4)**

**Sermon: Welcome Home**

Prelude

Greeting & Announcements

NOTE: † Congregation, please stand as you are able.

**Bold: Congregation, please respond together.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Alumbaugh family

†Call to Worship

Augustus and Quirinius --  
ancient names that seem odd to today's ears,

**characters in an ancient story  
that we long to hear.**

Nazareth and Bethlehem --  
distant towns we know little about,  
**places our hearts long for,  
because of the One who traveled there.**

We gather together to hear once more,  
a story so ancient and yet so current,  
so distant and yet so near.

**We come to hear the story  
of God coming to us.**

†Opening Prayer

Holy God, in days of old you sent your angels to tell the shepherds the good news: "To you is born this day a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord." Help us hear with the shepherds this good news, that we too may glorify and praise you for all that we have seen and heard. **AMEN.**

†Opening Hymn

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

UMH 242 v. 1 & 2

Concerns of the Community

Pastoral Prayer

‡Hymn

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

UMH 238, v. 1 & 4

‡Affirmation of Faith

“The Apostles’ Creed”

UMH 881

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

Young Disciples’ Time

Charlie Walden

‡Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

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.

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!”

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.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Welcome Home" Pastor Jennifer

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Holy Communion Word and Table II UMH 12-13

INVITATION

*Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who wait for the coming of Emmanuel with hopeful expectation,  
and who earnestly repent of their sin, who long for peace on earth,  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Let that peace begin as we confess our sin before God and one another.*

CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Merciful God,  
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

*(All pray in silence)*

*Hear the good news:*

*Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.*

*In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. AMEN.**

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.**

*It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:*

**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.**

*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.*

*As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

*When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

*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.**

*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 his blood.*

*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 Father, now and forever. **AMEN.***

*And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:*

THE 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.****

BREAKING THE BREAD

*Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.*

GIVING THE BREAD & CUP

*The body of Christ, given for you. **AMEN.***  
*The blood of Christ, given for you. **AMEN.***

**Service of Candlelighting**

**Invitation:**

*The Christ Candle reminds us that Jesus the Light of the World is in our midst. He came into the world to bring light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him. The invitation of Christmas is clear and is for each of us. "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters. Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near." Jesus Himself said, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Come and find peace; come and find rest. Come to the Child of Bethlehem.*

**†RECEIVING THE LIGHT**

*(As we sing "Silent Night", the lights will be dimmed, and the worship leaders will light their candles from the Christ Candle and pass the light to the worshipers. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lit. Please extinguish your candle and place it in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.)*

‡Closing Hymn

*Silent Night*

UMH 239, v. 1, 2 & 3

‡ Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders

Preacher..... Rev. Jennifer Kilpatrick  
Liturgist ..... Gail Blythe  
Music Director..... David Forbus  
Accompanist..... Laura Benton  
A/V Team ..... Cary Marsalis, Jay Marsh



***Traditional Worship Service in-person or online at 10:45 a.m.***

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### **Upcoming Worship Services**

**December 26, 2021**

First Sunday after Christmas

Carols, Cookies & Cocoa

**Scripture:** Psalm 98, Isaiah 42:10-12

Luke 2:8-14