



***Celebrating 155 Years 1868 - 2023***

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December 24, 2023

**O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

The great Christmas carol, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," is an invitation to us today. In the life of the Church, there are few events as significant and meaningful to us as Christmas Eve. It is a day and night of great celebration in which we remember that "God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son," and "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth." However, the very fact that we gather at the communion table brings to the day a certain somber realization that he was given the name Jesus "for he would save his people from their sins," which inevitably meant he was born to die for us. Much like Easter Sunday morning, there is something powerful in the story of salvation that draws us to worship on this night. It is more than family gatherings that fill our sanctuaries, though the opportunity to be in worship with people we love enhances the event. It is the message that we are not alone; "Emmanuel, God with us" has come. So we are so glad the "faithful" have come today to worship.

On behalf of the staff who are so blessed to serve at Wesley, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity to us and the ministry of our church. We are humbled that so many of you consistently give your time to worship and serve here. Because of you, we are able to live out our calling to serve Christ through the Church.

There are so many ways to be a blessing in this season of giving. Our Christmas Missions offering will go to causes that alleviate hunger. Your end-of-the-year gifts enable us to meet our budget and continue to fund all the ministries of Wesley that touch the lives of people. Your gifts and pledges to the Capstone Project, our upcoming Education Building Renovation Project, will enable us to create much-needed space for our music and children's ministries. Thanks for your generosity in response to what God has done for us in the gift of His Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ. We look forward to a new year of ministry together.

*Ben*

# CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

11:00 A.M.

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Prelude** Gigue on Go, Tell It On the Mountain arr. A. D. Miller

**Welcome and Announcements** Ben Martin

*Welcome to worship. Thank you for joining us. Please register your attendance in the booklets found in the pew and **remember to silence your cell phones and refrain from flash photography during the service.** We pray this hour will be a meaningful and grace-filled encounter with God through music, word, and fellowship. If needed, hearing devices and large print hymnals are available in the Narthex.*

**Nursery & Children's Worship:** *If needed, the nursery for infants to 3 years old is located on the first floor, and Children's Worship for ages 3 to 3rd grade is located on the second floor.*

**Chiming of the Hour** Jeremiah Durkin

**Lighting of the Candles** The Acolytes

**Opening Voluntary** Jingle Bells  
Ode to Joy  
Merritt Dixon, pianist

**Introit** He Is Born  
Millie Shor, soprano  
Riley Sortor, soprano  
Anna Wren Daniel, soprano

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**  
Travis, Melinda, Harper, and Riley Sortor

\* **Congregational Response**

"Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born."

\* **Hymn No. 234** O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELIS  
Stanzas 1-3, 6

\* **Affirmation of Faith No. 880** The Nicene Creed  
Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

\* **Congregational Response**

"Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!"

*(Dismissal for Children's Worship)*

*Children ages 3 - 3rd grade leave through the doors at the front of the sanctuary and go to Children's Worship on the second floor. Following the service, they can be picked up from the Fellowship Hall.*

**Pastoral Prayer** Nelle Bordeaux

\* **Scripture Lesson** (Pew Bible, NT pg. 58) Luke 2:1-20

**Holy Communion****Invitation and Confession**

**Pastor:** Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**All:** 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.*

**Pastor:** 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!

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

**All:** Glory to God. Amen.

**Offertory Prayer**

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

**Offertory Solo**

Away in a Manger  
Swayze Powers, soprano

**Presentation of Tithes and Offering**

*To tithe, text wesleymumc to 77977 or place your offering in the offering plate. Online giving is also available on our website.*

**\* Hymn of Response**

DIX

As they offered gifts most rare;  
At that manger rude and bare;  
So may we, with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ! to Thee our heavenly King.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to our Lord and God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**Pastor:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth...

And so, with Your people on earth, and all the company of heaven we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and  
earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the  
high-est. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ...

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 ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

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 for ever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

## 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 that 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

*(Gluten free bread is available. Please indicate your preference by raising your hand.)*

## Giving the Bread and Cup

*We will take communion at the rail. Today's communion offering is designated for the Christmas Missions offering which will go to causes that alleviate hunger. If you would like to give a donation, please place your offering in the chancel rail when you come to be served.*

## Communion Music

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming                      Lily Linebarger, soprano  
One Small Star    Jude Durkin, soprano

## Prayer After Receiving

**All:** Eternal God, we give You thanks for this holy mystery  
in which You have given Yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of Your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## \* Lighting of the Candles

## \* Hymn                      Silent Night                      STILLE NACHT

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                      Ben Martin

*Following the service, please place your candle in the boxes located in the Narthex.*

## Closing Voluntary                      Marc Cheban

Grand Fantasia on "Joy to the World"

- \* *Please stand as you are able.  
Following the service, please take your bulletins and all belongings with you.  
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## Poinsettias

Those who ordered poinsettias may take them home following this evening's 5:30 Service.

## The 2023 Christmas Offering - Addressing Hunger

According to Healthy Savannah, a nonprofit focused on poverty - in the fall of 2023 - 17.6% of all residents and 21.8% of children in Chatham County are food insecure. If in doubt, check out the line of cars every Friday morning at the intersection of Harmon and Anderson. As a response, our 2023 Christmas offering will be used to fund dynamic food programs that are feeding those most in need. The funds received in this Christmas offering will be divided among PACK, who feed children while out of school, Old Savannah City Mission, who feed the homeless, and Fellowship of Love, who feed families and shut-ins. Each organization provides food directly to those in need with minimal overhead and partnership with Second Harvest. If you have any questions or would like to serve more directly, contact Rev. Nelle Bordeaux at [tbordeaux@prodigy.net](mailto:tbordeaux@prodigy.net).

## Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed Monday (12/25) and Tuesday (12/26) in observance of Christmas.

## A Year-End Reminder

All 2023 contributions to the church must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2023 in order to comply with IRS regulations regarding charitable deductions.



## A Record of Our Faithfulness

Sunday Attendance: (12/17/23)

8:45 AM Worship	53	Nursery	9
11:00 AM Worship	245	Children's Worship	38
Online Worship Views	174	Sunday School	145
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>472</b>		

## Finances: (12-17-23)

Total Budget for the Year .....	\$2,083,655.68
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date .....	\$1,901,199.27
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date.....	\$2,056,508.71

## Assisting in Worship

**Acolyte:** Michael Cooler

**Children's Worship:** Charli Weeks

**Communion Stewards:** Diane Boyd

**Greeters:** Jewel Hendrix

**Offering Steward:** Brian West

**Ushers:** Brian West, Bobo Mullens, Jeff O'Connor, Aaron Pederson, Jacob Sigmon, Christian Valdez, Jim Pannell, Bobby Lee

### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ben Martin.....Senior Pastor	Jennifer Brookins.....Administrative Assistant to Pastoral Staff, Media Communications
Rev. Dr. Nelle Bordeaux..... Outreach & New Members	Ashley Higgins..... Communications Director
Rev. Carolyn Hale Cubbedge.....Senior Adults and Pastoral Care	Suzanna King..... Director of Hospitality
Dr. Monica Dekle.....Director of Music & Organist	David Lindquist.....Maintenance Tech
Julia Flowers..... Music Assistant	Betty Dudley.....Housekeeper
Charli Weeks..... Director of Children's Ministry	Micah Sprünger.....Wesley Gardens Property Manager
Jimmy Flowers..... Church Administrator	Ernie Banks.....Wesley Gardens Groundskeeper/Maintenance
Tom Anderson..... Financial Manager	Christian Swails.....Wesley Gardens Spiritual Direction/Reservations
Jennifer Baker.....Administrative Assistant, Reception	

**Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church**  
**December 24, 2023**

**Sermon Extended**

Monday	Luke 2:1-5	What does it tell you that Joseph has to take a full-term pregnant fiancée on a 70-mile trip to Bethlehem?
Tuesday	Luke 2:6-7	What do the conditions of his birth tell us about what his life would be like?
Wednesday	Luke 2:8-11	What does it mean to me that Christ is born "to you"?
Thursday	Luke 2:11	What do each of these titles tell us about Jesus: Savior, Messiah (Christ), the Lord?
Friday	Luke 2:12-20	Try "pondering" this story like Mary "pondered" all the things that happened? What do I hear God telling me?

**Sermon Notes**

## This Week at Wesley

**\*\*Visit [wesleymonumental.org/events/](http://wesleymonumental.org/events/)  
to view the calendar online.\*\***

### Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Communion Services

10:15 AM Coffee, FH  
11:00 AM Worship Service, SNC  
3:30 PM Child-Oriented Service, SNC  
(enjoyed by all ages)  
5:30 PM Carols by Candlelight,  
Worship Service, SNC

### Monday, December 25

Christmas Day  
Church Office Closed  
Eli's Place Closed All Week

### Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

OH = Oliver Hall	EB = Education Building
SNC = Sanctuary	FH = Fellowship Hall
WG = Wesley Gardens Retreat	

### Pastors on Call This Week

All days except Wednesdays  
Ben Martin ..... 912-547-1835  
Wednesdays  
Nelle Bordeaux ..... 912-234-9245

### Wednesday Night Supper

Our Wednesday Night Suppers and programming have ended for 2023. We will resume January 10, 2024.

*In Sympathy...*

The Singletary Family  
on the death of  
*Elaine Singletary*

## In Our Prayers....

Danielle Robertson, Camille Searcy, Roger Lemay, Gail Brannen, Jason Horton, Kevin Wilson, Archie Davis, Isaiah Benjamin Akrong (nephew of Deanna Sorrells), Tim Edwards, Ella Ealy (granddaughter of Carolyn Roth), Philip Fritts (brother of Lynn Fritts), Gloria Eitel, Adam Corey, Saddle Kurtz (aunt of Dan Kurtz), Tommy and Harriett Gattis (parents of Clayton Gattis), Dolly Caylor (mother of Rhonda Radcliff), Sharon and Terry Knepper (parents of Holly Conger), Karen Nickles, Lloyd Chapman, Mary Odom, Richard Zehl, Will Weeks, Georgia Kate Anderson, Lindsey Goldberg, Mary Hohnerlein (friend of Ken and Deanne Rimes), Heather Neisler, Carlyle Buevas (sister of Madge Edwards), Pat Monahan, McCarthy Family, Byron Rogers, John Birkheimer, Eleanor McCurry, John Beal (brother-in-law of John Birkheimer), Palmer Hood (brother of Ge-Juan Wilkes), Sara Hardwick (sister of Cassie Beckwith), Dennis Deal (cousin of Patricia Jacobs), Lynn and Dan Kurtz, Connie Kurtz (mother of Dan Kurtz), Ashley Post, Angela Chancey (niece of Cynthia Willett), Katie Adrian, Ken Brownfield, Shari and Mel Hubbard, Cindy and Oscar Cook, Doris Rothenberger (mother of Susan Colgrove), Michele Bazemore, Suzette Parker, Tim Mooney, Dale and Becki Fisher (cousins of Holly Conger), Valery Hanks, Dewayne Barfield (brother of Shirley Turner), Camille Herring (sister of Wade Herring), Matthew McClain, Jane Bostwick (mother of Meb Ryan), Walter Thomas (brother of Mark Thomas), Grant Kassinger (nephew of Peggy Jolley), Sally Polk (sister of Peggy Jolley), Alyssa Jones (grand-daughter of Rusty Holt), Ryan Davis, Martha Sloan, Fenton McEvoy

### At Home/Extended Care

Bella Grace Bartels, Pat Beasley, Harriet Bland, Olin Bockes, Roz Evans, Bob Harman, Marilyn Holleman, Sandrae McCorkle, Toni Olds, Edith Roszkowiak, Elton Stuenkel, Mark Thomas, Cindy Telljohann, Lois Wooten

### Military Serving Abroad/Stateside

Daniel Ealy, Michael Sailors, Dajuan Monley, Jason Childers, Yates Holleman, Chris Watson