

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**THE MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST**  
**MORNING WORSHIP ~ 11:00 A.M.**

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**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*The service of worship begins with the music.  
Through its power and brilliance may you feel the majesty of  
God, in its quietness, God's peace.*

**~ WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD ~**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** Flute/Violin

**\*\*WELCOME, REGISTRATION, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please sign the attendance sheet and pass it to  
the end of the pew for usher pickup.)*

**THE PRELUDE** Ryland Brown & Josh Consalvo (*Saxophone*)

**\*THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**\*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**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;

**Refrain:** O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him. O  
come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; R

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to  
thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh  
appearing; R

**\*GREETING**

Minister: Glory to God in the highest.

**People:** And on earth peace, goodwill toward all people.

Minister: Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy,  
which shall be to all people.

**People:** Glory to God on high.

Minister: For unto you is born in the city of David a Savior,  
which is Christ the Lord.

**People:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,  
goodwill toward all people.

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**Congregation** (*Sung to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*)

Lord we thank you, and we praise you, for your gift to us  
divine. As we celebrate this Christmas, fill our hearts with  
light sublime. Candles glowing, spirit growing, As the  
Christ child comes to Earth.

We rejoice his holy birth. We rejoice his holy birth.

**THE PRAYER**

Holy Child of Bethlehem, come to us. We open wide the  
doors to our hearts. Come, fill us with a Hope that eases  
our fears. Come, fill us with a Peace that calms our  
worries. Come fill us with a Joy that lifts our spirits.  
Come fill us with a Love that knows no boundaries.  
Come, fill us with Light that brightens every corner of  
darkness. Holy Child of Bethlehem, come to us; be born  
in us again. Amen.

**THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "The Jesus Gift" Martin  
Wendell Lunsford, soloist

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**THE GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 2:1-20 NT Pg. 58

**THE MORAVIAN BLESSING** (*in unison*)

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be, and bless these gifts  
bestowed by Thee. Bless our dear ones everywhere.  
Keep them in thy loving care. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE  
LOVEFEAST ELEMENTS  
(*Congregational Singing Begins*)

**SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS**, Noel sing we here! Hear  
our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

**Refrain:** Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now  
of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,  
journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest." R

**In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild, seated  
by the manger, watching the holy child. R**

**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 on  
earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; So God  
imparts to human hearts the blessing of this heaven, No  
ear may hear his coming, but in his world of sin, Where  
meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

**INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE** Flute/Violin

**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.

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 ANTHEM** "The Wexford Carol" Chancel Choir

**THE FIRST NOEL** 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.

**Refrain:** Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east, beyond  
them far; And to the earth it gave great light, And so it  
continued both day and night. R

And by the light of that same star Three Wise Men came  
from country far; To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. R

This star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took  
its rest; And there it did both stop and stay, Right over  
the place where Jesus lay. R

Then entered in those Wise Men three, Full reverently upon  
the knee, And offered there, in his presence, Their gold  
and myrrh and frankincense. R

THE COLLECTION OF THE REMNANTS  
(*Congregational Singing Continues*)

**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, good will to  
men, from heaven's all gracious King." The world in  
solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings  
unfurled, And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the  
weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend  
on hovering wing, And ever o'er its Babel sounds the  
blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
When with the ever circling years shall come the time  
foretold When peace shall over all the earth its ancient  
splendors fling, And the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

**INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE** Flute/Violin

**HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**, "Glory to the  
newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God  
and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join  
the triumph of the skies, With th' angelic host  
proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Refrain:** Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the  
newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting  
Lord; Late in time behold him come, offspring of a  
virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'  
incarnate Deity, Pleas'd with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus  
our Emmanuel. **R**

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of  
Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen  
with healing in his wings. Mild, he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die, Born to raise us from  
the earth, born to give us second birth. **R**

**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.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs  
employ; While field and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, repeat,  
repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the  
ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the  
curse is found, Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the  
curse is found.

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

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON** John 1:1-14 NT Pg. 91-92

**THE RESPONSE OF THE CONGREGATION** (*in unison*)

(*Based on Romans 13:12; II Corinthians 4:6; I Peter 2:9*)

Let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on  
the armor of light. For God, who commanded the light

to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to  
give light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the  
face of Jesus Christ. We should show forth the praises  
of him who hath called us out of darkness into his  
marvelous light.

**THE CANDLELIGHTING**

(The minister will light a candle from the Christ candle of the  
Advent Wreath and then light the candles of the dieners. The  
dieners will then light the candle of the worshippers sitting  
near the aisle, who in turn will pass the light down the pew.  
Remember to hold the lighted candle upright while the  
unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted. Children should  
be supervised during the ceremony. Also, please hold your  
lighted candle upright to prevent wax from dripping on the  
pew in front of you.)

**THE CAROL** (*Please remain seated*) "Silent Night"  
(*During the singing of the last stanza, the members of the  
congregation will hold their candles high as an act of  
rededication. After a moment of silence, please extinguish all  
candles.*)

**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.

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**\*THE POSTLUDE** Flute/Violin

\*Congregation will please stand.

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*Thank you to our guest violinist and flutist,  
Rebecca Aguirre and Kelly Herd.*

*We also thank, Austin & Katie Watts for lighting the Advent candle.  
We thank all those volunteers who helped make this service  
possible. We appreciate your service and commitment!*

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# *WELCOME* to **ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** **A Traditional Christmas Lovefeast and Candle Service**



**The Rev. Alex Stevenson**  
7 Shannon Drive  
Greenville, South Carolina 29615  
864-244-1820

**11:00 AM Worship**  
**The Moravian Lovefeast**

**December 24, 2017**

**Established October 9, 1960**

**Open hearts...Open minds...Open doors**  
**The people of The United Methodist Church**

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*