

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

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.*

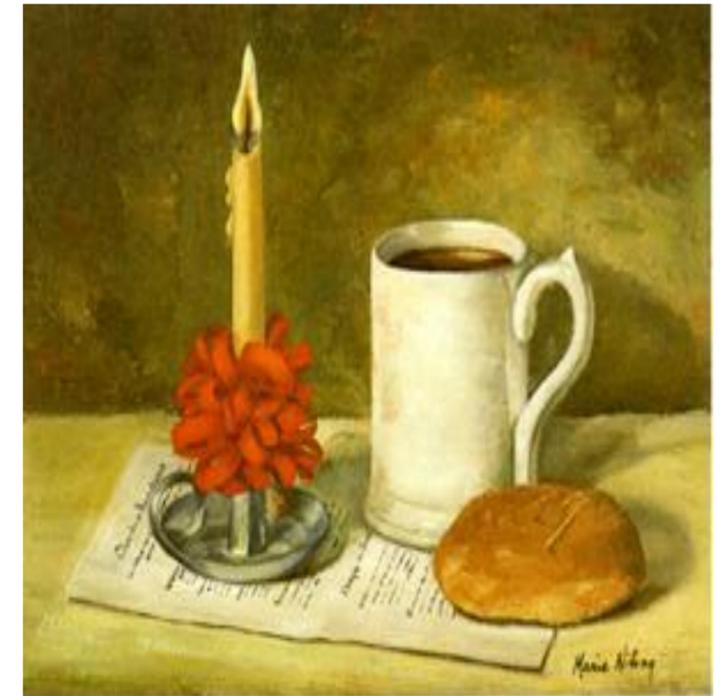
*We also thank, Austin & Katie Watts for lighting the Advent candle.*

*We thank all those volunteers who helped make this service  
possible. We appreciate your service and commitment!*

# *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*