

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lessons and Carols

Join us for worship Sunday, Dec. 31 at 11 a.m. for a service of Lessons and Carols. We will hear familiar, uplifting scripture, sing all of our favorite Christmas carols, and share in Holy Communion. Children (and people of all ages) are welcome to wear pajamas and bring toys for a "toy blessing" during the children's moment.

Advent Angel Tree

This year our Advent Angel Tree supports the teachers and classrooms at Lake Forest Elementary School, a local Title I school that appreciates our partnership and support!

Sunday Supper and Study

Join us Jan. 14 - Feb. 18 for six weeks of Sunday evening connection over scripture and supper! Pastors Kate and Kyle will lead an engaging video adult bible study from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Animate: Practices, digging into various Christian practices: Serving, Community, Worship, Food, Sacraments, and Prayer. Children will have the opportunity to engage in age appropriate lessons around these themes as well. Dinner will follow from 5:30-6 p.m. Register today at ssumc.org/grow!

Special Christmas Eve Offering

Unless otherwise designated, 100% of the church's Christmas Eve offering goes to support the Good Samaritan Fund. This fund allows the church to respond to the needs of people in our community, such as rental assistance, transportation needs, household bills, etc.

Also, as we approach the end of another year, this is a reminder that 2023 contributions must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31 to be applied toward your account this year. Thank you!

*Liturgy for the service was adapted from prayers by
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

Ways To Give:

- Offering Plates: Make a check out to the church or prepare your cash offering.
- Online: Give securely at ssumc.org/give, or by scanning the QR code.
- Text to Give: Text ssumc.org/give to 73256.



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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Kate Floyd Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Kyle Tau Deacon
Candace Johnson, M.Div. Dir. of Family Ministries
Aimee, Brad, Max, and Abby Advent Wreath Liturgists
Bodenheimer
Catherine Giel Pianist

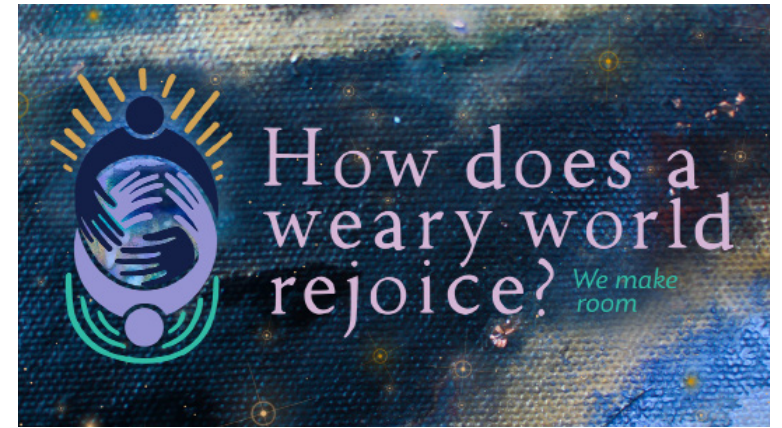
Nativity Play:
Watson Burkett, Harper Hsiao, Katy Hsiao, Emily Illston, Kathryn Illston, Mary Illston, Kifer Johnson, Zahra Masilamani, Lydia McMurtrie, Millie McMurtrie, Tara Scullin, Daisy Tau, Sam Tau, Charles Thomason, Camilla Wood, Carter Wood, Coco Wood, Christopher Wright, and Scott Wright.

Mailing Address

PO Box 720139 • Sandy Springs, GA 30358

Street Address

86 Mt. Vernon Highway • Sandy Springs, GA 30328
404.255.1181 | ssumc.org



December 24, 2023 | 11 a.m.
CHRISTMAS EVE

Luke's Gospel tells us that when Mary gives birth to Jesus, she lays him in a manger, for there was no place for them in the guest room. Christ is born in a crowded, unlikely place. And yet, God makes a place here anyway. God draws the circle wider as shepherds and unexpected guests arrive. This Christmas, let us also make room—for strangers and neighbors alike. For this is good news of great joy for all people.



SANDY SPRINGS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Visit us online at ssumc.org
phone: 404.255.1181 • fax: 404.255.0283

GATHERING

The flowers on the altar are given by Kelley Dopson to the glory of God and in honor of the children in the Nativity Play and the adults who guide them.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

We have been living in darkness,

Now we see a great light.

Today, in a stable, we sing a new song:

Of compassion, peace, and joy.

Of justice, mercy, and forgiveness.

For the lowly are lifted up,

And the rough places are made plain.

Today, we celebrate!

For Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

*OPENING HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful" –UMH #234, vs. 1, 2, 3, 6

LISTENING

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

"The First Noel" –UMH #245 vs. 1-4

*SCRIPTURE

Listen for the word of God:

Our Ears are Open!

Luke 2:10-20

This is the Word of God for the People of God:

Thanks be to God!

NATIVITY PLAY

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

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 on the hay.

Go Tell it on the Mountain

(refrain) Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! Above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

RESPONDING

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

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. (Apostles Creed, UMH #881)

OFFERTORY

Ways to give are listed on the back of this worship guide. Thank you for your generosity!

*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.**

BLESSING OF LAKE FOREST SUPPLIES

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN

"Joy To The World" –UMH #209

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE