

First Baptist Church

101 S. Collier St, Centralia, MO

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2023, at 6:00pm

O Holy Night – Amity Bryson and Danelle Mathews

Lighting of the Advent Candle – *The Candle of Christ*

Prayer

Scripture: Luke 1:26-28; 31-33

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged^[e] to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you."... ³¹Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire^[a] should be registered. ²This first registration took place while^[b] Quirinius was governing Syria. ³So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, ⁵to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him^[c] and was pregnant. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger,^[d] because there was no guest room available for them.

Songs:

The First Noel

O Little Town of Bethlehem

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

⁸In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.^[a] ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people:^[b] ¹¹Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger."¹³ Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host^[c] with the angel, praising God and saying: ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors!

Songs:

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Angels We Have Heard on High (Chorus only)

O Come All Ye Faithful

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told.

Songs:

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come

Emmanuel

Observance of the *Lord's Supper*

We Light a Thousand Candles Bright – Danelle Mathews

Lighting of Candles with *Silent Night*

Note: If you donated a poinsettia, you may take it home tonight, but please leave the basket on the front pew.