

# Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

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*An old familiar story*

*Una historia vieja y familiar*

**December 24, 2021**  
**The Beautiful Poinsettias are presented by:**  
(listed on back of bulletin)

**CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**December 24th, 2021 – 4:00pm – In-Person and on ZOOM, Facebook & YouTube**  
**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: Year C**

**GATHERING MUSIC:**

Erica Kessler

The Virgin's Lullaby  
*By Dudley Buck*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison):**

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, be born in our hearts this night.**

**Shine your light into the darkness of our world, that all the earth might know your glorious presence and that all people might find hope in your love and grace.**

**In your glorious name, we pray.**

**AMEN.**

**CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING:**

**VOICE 1:** Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

*(We light all four Advent candles.)*

O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!

*(With all Advent candles lit, we light the center white Christ candle.)*

**VOICE 2:** With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us. This is the time of light and resplendent joy. We have known times when God has come and brought life and light to our world. God has been born among us. We remember...

*(Pause and remember a time, at Christmas or some other time, when God has been joyfully and powerfully revealed to family, church, community, or world).*

**VOICE 1:** The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine, and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!" John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.

**VOICE 2:** God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine (this night) with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine (this night) with your grace. Amen.

**ALL VOICES:** Shine on us, O God of justice; Guide our path through gloom of night; Bear within us Wisdom's glory; Come to us, O Christ the Light. Glory be to God and peace on earth Christ is born! Alleluia!

**\*CAROL:**

O Come All Ye Faithful

UMH 234 (1-3)

## FIRST LESSON:

LUKE 1:26-33, 38

### A reading from the Gospel of Luke...

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The LORD is with you." <sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The LORD God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>38</sup>"I am the LORD's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## CAROL:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230 (1,2,4)

## SECOND LESSON:

LUKE 2:1-7

### A reading from the Gospel of Luke...

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## CAROL:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

## THIRD LESSON:

LUKE 2:8-14

### A reading from the Gospel of Luke...

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the LORD appeared to them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the LORD. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## CAROL:

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH 238 (1,3,4)

## FOURTH LESSON:

LUKE 2:15-20

### A reading from the Gospel of Luke...

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the LORD has told us about." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### CAROL:

What Child is This

UMH 219

### THE SERMON:

"A Liberating Story"  
Pastor Uziel Hernandez Martinez

### \*CAROL:

Joy to the World

UMH 246 (1,2,4)

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

In joy and thanksgiving at Christ's birth,  
Let us sing to the Lord a new song,  
On earth peace, good will among people.  
We pray for all faithful people,  
For all welcome messengers of good news,

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,  
**On earth peace, good will among people.**

For the nations and their rulers,  
For our country and our government leaders,  
For anyone with power over the lives of others,

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,  
**On earth peace, good will among people.**

For those who defend the helpless,  
For those who strive for justice,  
For those who work to find a way to peace,  
For all the world, and all who live in it,

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,  
**On earth peace, good will among people.**

For anyone suffering, sick, alone, afraid, or in any kind of trouble.  
We pray especially for . . . [*name those you want to remember today*].

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,  
**On earth peace, good will among people.**

For our own community, for friends, neighbors, and family, near and far.  
We pray especially for . . . [*name those you want to remember today*].

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,  
**On earth peace, good will among people.**

For those who have died.  
We pray especially for . . . [*name those you want to remember today*].

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,  
**On earth peace, good will among people.**

We offer thanksgiving for Mary's firstborn Son—  
good news of great joy.

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,  
**On earth peace, good will among people.**

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.  
Before the eyes of all the nations you sent your Son,  
the exact imprint of love itself, to be our salvation.  
With the shepherds in the fields,  
let us go now to Bethlehem,  
there to find Christ in our hearts, and in the world. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY MUSIC:**

The Sleep Of The Infant Jesus  
*Traditional French Carol; arr. by Eugenie Rocherolle*

Erica Kessler

#### **\*DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison):**

**Beautiful Savior, we are so grateful for your birth so many years ago, and we are so joyful to have your presence in our lives this night.**

**In gratitude, we offer our gifts, however humble they might be.**

**Transform our gifts with your glory and grace, that our gifts might become grace and love, and light and hope, for a world in need of you.**

**Amen.**

**FIFTH LESSON:**

JOHN 1:1-5

**A reading from the Gospel of John...**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**\*CANDLELIGHT HYMN:**

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

**\*BENEDICTION:**

Go forth and shine light in the darkness.

Go and bring peace into our troubled world.

Proclaim hope in the midst of despair.

Go with God's blessings—for a child has been born to us, who is Love for the nations and Light for the world.

**AMEN**

**GOING FORTH:**

Erica Kessler

What Child Is This?

*16th Century English Melody; arr. by Eugenie Rocherolle*

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**Pastor:** Rev. Uziel Hernández Martínez

**Liturgists:** CMUMC ministers

**Pianist:** Erica Kessler

**Social Media:** Dulce Maciel

**Bulletin:** Lora Doll

**\*\*PRAYER LIST\*\***

**At W. Willows:** Mae Foster, Henrietta Day, Art Huenkemeier, Lee Magnuson.

**At Home:** Micaela Serrano, Cleo English, Carol Waxler.

**Undergoing Treatment/Rehab:** Ken Dahlgren, John Paul, Maynard Wibom, Rev. Bettye Mixon, Tara & Ismael Arencibia, Jerald Grady, Chuck & Kim Whitmore, Pat Nelson, Ellen Dean, David Russ, Reuben & Rosa Mendoza, Jennifer Martin, Forrest Nelson, Noreen Slade, Wayne Russ, Erica Kessler.

**BIRTHDAYS**

	12/20	Benjamin Berry	12/23	Elizabeth Jaworowski
12/19		Robert Risenhoover	12/20	Abby Williams
12/19		Pamela Bressler Smith	12/22	Blanca Zavala
			12/30	Jeanine Homan

We hope you will worship with us again.

You can call Pastor Uziel if you need any assistance, please contact him at 224-723-7003 or - centennialumc.pastor@gmail.com



## **Poinsettias presented by**

<b>Lori Doll</b>	<b>Remenbering Grandparents Allen &amp; Margaret Robb Henry &amp; Viola Doll</b>	<b>Art Huenkenmeier Carol Risenhoover</b>	<b>In appreciation of family &amp; Centennial In memory of parents</b>
<b>Marje Doll</b>	<b>Remembering Harry &amp; Linda</b>	<b>Sharon Sodergren &amp; Bev Dahlgren</b>	<b>In memory of parents</b>
<b>Linda &amp; Jim Gentry</b>	<b>In celebration of Brenda &amp; Rob</b>	<b>Dougal &amp; Cindy Whitmer</b>	<b>In celebration of Harvie Lee</b>
<b>Pastor Judith Kelsey-Powell</b>	<b>In memory of parents &amp; in celebration of daughter Ana's graduation from Yale Divinity School</b>	<b>Chuck &amp; Kim Whitmore</b>	<b>In memory of loved ones</b>
<b>Pastor Uziel Hernandez Martinez</b>	<b>In appreciation of my mother, Francisca Martinez Miguel &amp; of my mother-in-law, Janet Cabrera Barahona</b>	<b>Maynard &amp; Marlene Wibom</b>	<b>In appreciation of Centennial</b>