

## WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday December 24th

Christmas Eve

Sanctified Art: How Does a Weary World Rejoice

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME    UMH 234 O Come All Ye Faithful, vs. 1-3,6

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

There is room for you here.

If you're weary and worn,  
or hopeful and patient.

**If you're tired and lost,  
or wrapped up in hope.**

If you're new to this place,  
or have been here before.

**Come in, come in.**

**There is room for you here.**

The angels are singing,

**"Be not afraid."**

The angels are singing,

**"Good news and great joy!"**

So come in, come in!

**There is room for us here.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

\*HYMN AS CHILDREN GATHER    UMH 217 Away in a Manger, vs. 1,3

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

ANTHEM: Hush!, by Sally K. Albrecht

CALL TO CONFESSION (PA)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (liturgist/unison)

Loving Christ,

Scripture tells us that you were placed in a manger  
among livestock and hay

because there was no place in the guest room.

**The space was full, and yet—  
your parents made room.**

Scripture tells us that shepherds arrived  
from the fields beyond town.

**The space was full, and yet—  
they made room.**

Scripture tells us that Mary pondered  
what the shepherds had to say.

**Her heart was full, and yet—  
she made room.**

Too often we assume there is no more room.

**Too often we choose exclusion and close off our hearts.**

**Teach us how to make room for one another.**

**Teach us how to make room for you.**

**Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love,  
for we do not want to build hostility here.**

**We want to build your promised day.**

**Guide us forward.**

**With hope and honesty we pray,  
amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (liturgist)

Friends, the angels say, “Be not afraid,” but they also say, “Unto you a  
child is born.”

Christ is born for you.

Christ walked this earth for you.  
Christ forgives you.  
That's what love does.  
It makes room. It offers grace. It learns your name.  
So repeat these words of hope after me:  
Unto us a child is born.  
**Unto us a child is born.**  
Unto us grace is given.  
**Unto us grace is given.**  
May this good news change the very fabric of our lives.  
**Christ has made room for all of us. Amen.**

\*HYMN    UMH 230 O Little Town of Bethlehem, vs. 1,2  
             UMH 238 Angels We Have Heard on High, vs. 1-3

## LESSON I        **Luke 2:1-7**

**In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. <sup>2</sup> This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. <sup>4</sup> Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. <sup>5</sup> He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.**

**May God add a Blessing to this reading.**

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### LESSON 2: Luke 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup> Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. <sup>9</sup> The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. <sup>11</sup> Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." <sup>16</sup> They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup> Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

This is the Word of God for all people.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE          We make room

\*HYMN          Make Room, used by permission, Sanctified Art (tune: UMH 230, 3 verses)

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### TIME OF PRAYER

#### PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

#### 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 now and forever.  
Amen.**

#### OFFERTORY

##### \*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

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

##### \*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,  
giver of every good and perfect gift,  
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,  
that we may praise you not with our words only,  
but with our whole lives. Amen.

##### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who makes room for us—  
who opens the door,  
pulls up a seat,  
puts the kettle on, and says,**

**“Tell me everything.” (continued)**

**We believe that God not only treats us this way  
but also makes room for  
our neighbors,  
for strangers,  
and for our enemies.**

**Jesus modeled this kind of  
room-making love when he said,  
“Let the children come to me,”  
and, “Let me wash your feet,”  
so we try to follow suit.**

**In a world of closed doors,  
we believe in saying,  
“There is room for you here.”**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION – SERVING**

**CANDLELIGHTING: Peace, Peace, by Rick and Sylvia Powell with  
UMH 239 Silent Night, vs. 1-4**

**CLOSING HYMN: UMH 246 Joy to the World**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**