



*Love
Feast*

in the Moravian Tradition

December 14, 2025

7 p.m.

LOVE FEAST IN THE MORAVIAN TRADITION

Welcome to this service celebrating God's love to all in Christ Jesus.

If possible, please move toward the center aisle so additional worshippers can enter the pews from the side aisles.

Thank you for this act of hospitality.

GREETING

PRELUDE

"Joy to the World"
Covenant Handbells

Valerie Stephenson
arr. by Derek Hakes

INVOCATION

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

(1) 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

(2) True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
begotten, not created;
REFRAIN

(3) Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest;
REFRAIN

(4) Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
REFRAIN

REFRAIN: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*GOSPEL LESSON "The Christmas Story" Luke 2:1-20

(NT, p. 1245)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please wait to partake of the coffee and buns until after the blessing.

CAROLS

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

- (1) Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
REFRAIN
- (2) Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
REFRAIN

- (3) Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
REFRAIN
- (4) See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
REFRAIN

REFRAIN: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

“Away in a Manger”

- (1) Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
- (2) The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- (3) 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 First Noel”

- (1) 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
- (2) 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.
REFRAIN
- (3) 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.
REFRAIN
- (4) 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.
REFRAIN

REFRAIN: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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!
- (3) How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.
- (4) O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

“Il Est Né”

REFRAIN

Il est né, le divin Enfant;
jouez hautbois rèsonez musettes!
Il est né, le divin Enfant;
chantons tous son avènement!

- (2) O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind!
REFRAIN

- (1) Thru long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last!
REFRAIN

- (3) Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us thy heavenly peace.
REFRAIN

MORAVIAN BLESSING

**Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be and bless these gifts bestowed by thee.
Bless our loved ones everywhere and keep them in thy tender care. Amen.**

In Unison

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Covenant Handbells

Traditional French
arr. by Kevin McChesney

“O Little One Sweet”

Chancel Choir

Traditional German
arr. by J. S. Bach

“The Little Drummer Boy”

Chancel Choir, Youth Choir

Katherine K. Davis
Henry Simeone, Henry V. Onorati

“Ukranian Bell Carol”

Covenant Handbells, Chancel Choir and Youth Choir

Ukranian Carol
arr. by Arnold Sherman

CAROLS

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

(1) 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

(2) 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,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
REFRAIN

(3) 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.
REFRAIN

REFRAIN: Hark! the herald angels sing “Glory to the newborn King!”

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

- (1) God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan’s pow’r
when we were gone astray.
REFRAIN
- (2) From God our heav’nly Father
a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name.
REFRAIN
- (3) “Fear not,” then said the angel,
“Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in Him
from Satan’s pow’r and might.”
REFRAIN
- (4) The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks afeeding,
in tempest, storm, and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway,
this blessed Babe to find.
REFRAIN
- (5) Now to the Lord sing praises
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all other doth deface.
REFRAIN

REFRAIN: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Covenant Handbells

Traditional French
arr. by Julie Turner

THE CANDLE SERVICE

When lighting the candle, please tilt the unlit candle.

CAROL

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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!
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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!

MORAVIAN HYMN

“Morning Star, O Cheering Sight”

F.F. Hagen

Soloist ~ Eliza Pendergrass

*The congregation sings the **bold** text.*

- (1) Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Without you how dark the night!
Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Without you how dark the night!
Jesus mine, **in me shine!**
In me shine, **Jesus mine;**
Fill my heart with light divine.
- (2) Your glad beams, O Morning Star,
Guide the nations, near and far.
Your glad beams, O Morning Star,
Guide the nations, near and far.
You we love, **Lord above,**
Lord above, **You we love.**
Our dear savior, son of God.
- (3) Morning Star, my soul's true light,
Come to end the dark of night.
Morning Star, my soul's true light,
Come to end the dark of night.
Jesus mine, **in me shine!**
In me shine, **Jesus mine;**
Fill my heart with love divine.

*BENEDICTION

*CAROL

“Joy to the World”

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) 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. | (2) Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy. |
| (3) 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. | (4) 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. |

Used candles will be recycled if placed in the baskets located at the Sanctuary exits.

THE LOVE FEAST is a service that dates from the beginnings of the Christian Church, when Christians would gather and eat a meal to celebrate the love that bound them together. In 1727, the Moravian Church renewed the practice of the Love Feast as a fellowship meal. The candle-lighting reminds each worshipper that Christ said, “I am the light of the world,” and “You are the light of the world – let your light shine.” The bright red paper frill on the candles reminds us of the blood which Jesus shed for each of us. John Wesley, founder of Methodism, used the Love Feast frequently during his ministry. He found it to be particularly appropriate at Christmas, as a celebration of the love that Christ brought to the world. This is the 52nd annual Love Feast at University UMC.



*Living into Radical Kinship through Loving God, Serving Others and
Building Christian Community*

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