

# Perry Hall United Methodist Church

## Christmas Eve 2023

(\*\*Stand as you are able)

### WELCOME – RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

*~ Please sign the Ritual of Friendship and pass down the row. When everyone has signed, please pass it back to the center, noting those on your row that you may not know. Be sure to greet them after the service! ~*

**ORGAN PRELUDE** “Christmas Is Here” Dale Wood

**CHORAL INTROIT** “Prepare Ye (the Way of the Lord)” Stephen Schwartz

**\*\*OPENING HYMN** “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” pg. 240 UMH

### \*\* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us dance with delight in the Lord and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing,

P: for eternal salvation has appeared on the earth. Alleluia!

### OPENING PRAYER

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son. Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth; and so direct our steps that we may ever walk in the way revealed to us, as the shepherds of Bethlehem walked with joy to the manger where he dwelled, who now and ever reigns in our hearts, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (by Lisa Hancock of Discipleship Ministries)

Readers: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, ---- who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

P: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God’s kingdom.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

*We light all five candles.*

**ANTHEM** “Advent Song” Mary Lu Walker  
(7:00 pm) “Who Will Go to Bethlehem?” Tina English

**CHILDREN’S STORY** (7:00 pm)

### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake, Amen.

### THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS OF LOVE

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving Lord, accept these gifts as we join with your people throughout the earth to sing your praise and celebrate your gracious gift of Jesus’ birth. Bless these gifts that they may be used to promote peace and goodwill among all people. Bless those who give that we may be beacons of your love and may work to advance your kingdom; through Jesus whose self-emptying love redeems us. Amen.

**OFFERTORY** “The Star Carol” Hudson & Burt

**\*\*DOXOLOGY** pg. 95 UMH

**\*\*HYMN OF PREPARATION** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” pg. 229 UMH

**\*\*SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:1-14 pg. 58 New Testament

*(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)*

**THE MESSAGE** “Born This Day” Rev. Margery Schammel

### CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

*~~ Time of silent confession ~~*

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people, glory to God!

P: Alleluia! Amen.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (Musical Setting A, pp. 17-18 UMH)

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing.... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All singing: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.... in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All singing: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit.... All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**All singing: Amen, amen, amen.**

#### **GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*~Please follow the direction of the ushers. You will come to the table by the center aisle. You will partake of the bread and cup. You may kneel for prayer after. You will return to your seats by the side aisles.~*

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*The greeters will light their candles from the Christ candle. Please activate your glowsticks **before** the greeters come to the pews. Each worshipper will **turn unlit candles sideways** to light them. The greeters will light the candle on the end of each pew. Please keep all lit candles straight. During this time, let us sing "Silent Night" and then "Joy to the World". Please use extreme caution in the use of the candles. Assist any children whom you have given permission to hold a lighted candle. You may keep your glowsticks and please return your candles to the narthex at the end of the service. Thank you.*

**All sing: SILENT NIGHT and JOY TO THE WORLD (see insert for words)**

#### **\*\*BENEDICTION**

#### **ORGAN POSTLUDE**

"Gloria"

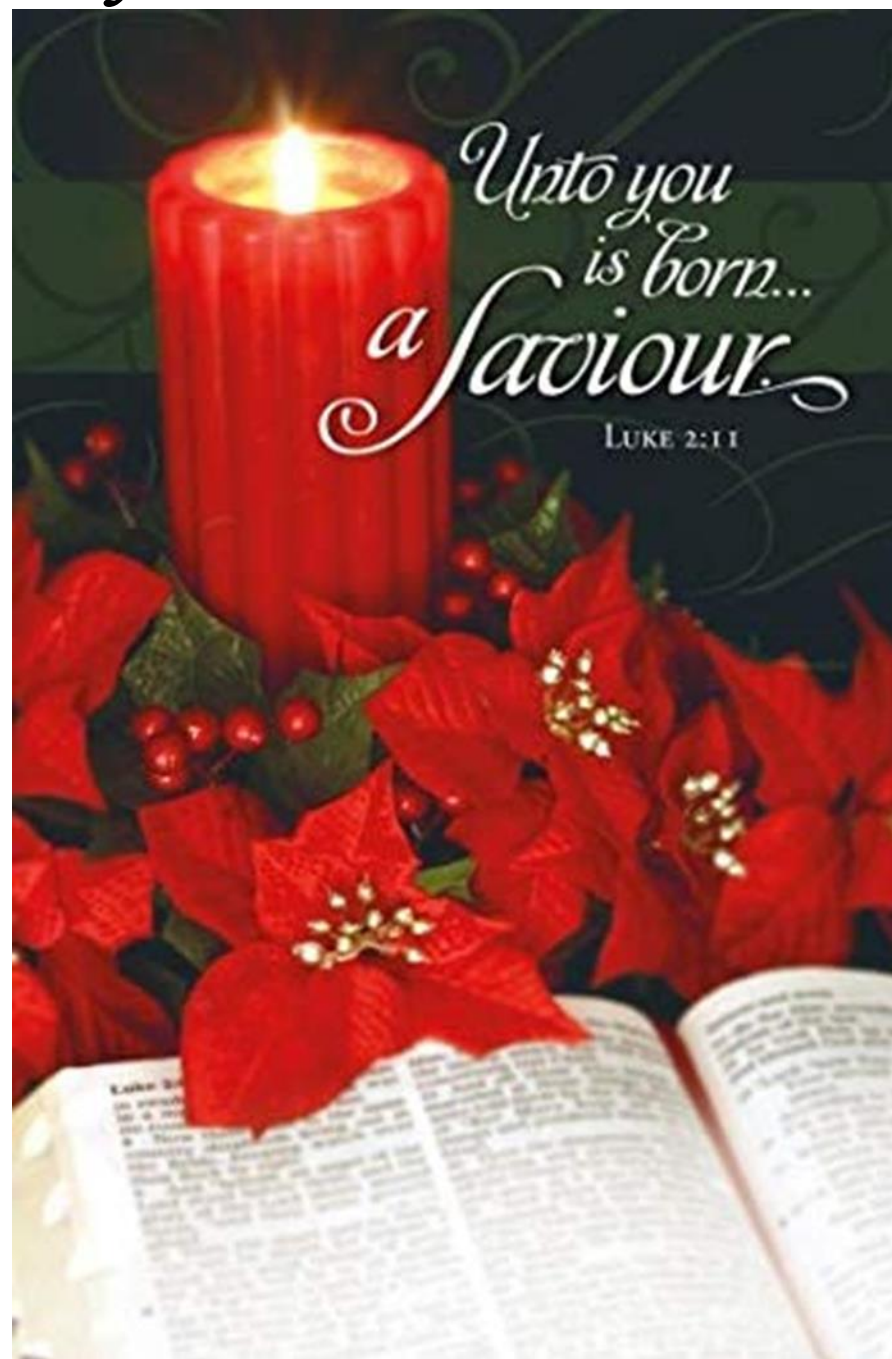
Mozart



**Acolytes** – Sydney Lee & Leona Mager 7:00 pm

Trystan Boyd & Catherine Reinhart 11:00 pm

## *Perry Hall United Methodist Church*



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### **“Silent Night”**

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.

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.

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.

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!

### **“Joy to the World”**

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.

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.

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 this love.

**~~Please extinguish candles at the conclusion of “Joy to the World”.~~**



***The Church Office will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> - January 2<sup>nd</sup> .***  
Pastor Margery will be on vacation Dec. 25 through Jan. 2nd.

Please contact Peggy Whiting (443-257-2874) if you have a pastoral emergency during that time, and a local pastor will respond.

**From the Pastor and Staff of Perry Hall United Methodist,  
we wish you and yours a very Merry and Blessed Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!**

**We hope to see you in 2024!  
Our regular Sunday worship is at 9:30 am.  
Sunday School for the children is at the same time!**

### **Staff**

**Rev. Margery Schammel**

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**Denise Boyd**, Church Secretary & Contemporary Worship Coordinator

*(cell) 443-787-8687, (home) 410-676-5321*

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