

The Great Thanksgiving (continued)
...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
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.
...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer
Receiving the Bread and Cup
Holy Communion “Peace, Peace” Choir
Lighting The Christ Candle
Candle Lighting Sentences
Send, O God, the Light of your Son Jesus Christ
to dawn again on the darkness of this troubled world.
Grant that in his Star
we may behold the Light, and walk in the Light.

*Hymn “Silent Night” UMH #239
*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, the 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!*

*Dismissal With Blessing
*Postlude

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“Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World”



December 24, 2025
7:00 pm
Traditional Service

665 W Corbett Avenue
Swansboro, North Carolina 28584
910 326-4822
www.SwansboroUMC.org

Pastor Laura Thompson: PastorLaura@swansboroumc.org
Pastor Elias Ballew: PastorElias@swansboroumc.org
Director of Music Ministries: Lindsay Williams: Music@swansboroumc.org
Piano & Organ: Terri Boykin

Traditional Christmas Eve Service

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| Prelude | “O Holy Night” | Grace Kennedy |
| Welcome | | |
| *Carol | “O Come, All Ye Faithful” | UMH #234 |
| Bidding Prayer | | |
| First Lesson: | To Us A Child Is Born | Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7 |
| Carol | "Joy to the World" (vs. 1 & 3) | UMH #246 |
| | <i>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.</i> <i>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.</i> | |
| Second Lesson: | The Branch of Jesse | Isaiah 11:1-9 |
| Carol | “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (vs. 1, 4) | UMH #218 |
| | <i>1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.</i> <i>4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.</i> | |
| Third Lesson: | The Birth of Jesus Foretold | Luke 1:26-35, 38 |
| Anthem | “Mary, Did You Know?” | Choir |
| Fourth Lesson: | The Birth Of Jesus | Luke 2:1-7 |
| Homily | | Rev. Laura Thompson |
| Carol | “Away In A Manger” | UMH #217 |
| | <i>1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head; the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.</i> <i>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.</i> | |
| Fifth Lesson: | The Shepherds And Angels | Luke 2:8-16 |
| Carol | “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” | UMH #240 |
| | <i>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!” Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”</i> | |

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| <i>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. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”</i> | | |
| Giving our Tithes and Offerings | | |
| Offertory | “When Love Was Born” | Roger Fulp |
| Prayer Of Thanksgiving | | |
| Sixth Lesson: | The Word Became Flesh | John 1:1-14 |
| Carol | “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” | UMH #184 |
| | <i>1. Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world's began to be, He is Alpha and Omega; He the source, the ending He. Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see. Evermore and evermore!</i> <i>2. O ye heights of heaven adore Him, angel hosts, His praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!</i> | |
| Invitation | | |
| Prayer Of Confession | Incarnate God, on this most tender night, we confess that our hearts are often more full of noise than wonder. We hurry past the mystery. We cling to what feels safe. We look for you in strength and certainty when you arrive in vulnerability and need. We confess that we have made little room— in our schedules, room in our homes, room in our hearts— for the Christ who comes quietly among us. We have doubted the nearness of your love. We have not loved our neighbors as you intend and have become complacent in the presence of injustice and violence. Forgive us, Emmanuel. Meet us again at the manger and at this Table. Set us free from fear and redeem us from evil, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen. | |
| Assurance Of Pardon | Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life; into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light; into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness and peace. Thanks be to God for the gift of the Baby of Bethlehem, who brings joy and peace to us in these moments of forgiveness and in all the days to come. Amen. | |
| The Great Thanksgiving | | UMH #13 |
| | May the God of silent nights be with you! May the God of herald angels be with you! Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem. May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts. Join all believers in singing of our joy this night. May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds. | |