



First United Methodist Church

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First United Methodist Church Cuero

Rev. Jackie Freeman

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve



Service Time	Liturgist	Ushers	Special Music
4:00pm	Colette Barth	Jeanine Calliham	Rev. Wanda Ritchea Sarah Ritchea
6:00pm	Colette Barth	Jeanine Calliham Dorothy Brown	Bobby Jones Constance White

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

*PROCLAMATION

Pastor Jackie

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Colette Barth

Leader: Unexpectedly, the time came! The child was born!

People: The Savior of the World is here!

Leader: Unexpectedly, the angels told the shepherds of the newborn Savior;

People: The Savior of the world is here!

Leader: Unexpectedly, the shepherds went and found the child, lying in a manger.

People: The Savior of the world is here!

Leader: We wait for the Christ to come again. We wait for Christ to enter our world and lives in a new way.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *“Angels We Have Heard on High”* UMH 238

PRAYER

Pastor Jackie Freeman

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jones Family

Reader One: Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

Reader Two: It is time we set flame to this advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

Reader One: We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.

Reader Two: Rejoice, a Savior is born.

All: A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Pastor Jackie

HYMN	<i>“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”</i>	UMH 196
SECOND READING	<i>Psalm 96 – UHM 815</i>	Pastor Jackie
MUSIC	<i>“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”</i>	UMH 184
THIRD READING	<i>Luke 2: 1-7</i>	Colette Barth
HYMN	<i>“Away in the Manager”</i>	UMH 217
FOURTH READING	<i>Luke 2: 8-14</i>	Colette Barth
SPECIAL MUSIC (4:00pm)	<i>Rev. Wanda Ritchea & Sarah Ritchea</i>	
SPECIAL MUSIC (6:00pm)	<i>Bobby Jones & Constance White</i>	
FIFTH READING	<i>Luke 2: 15-20</i>	Colette Barth
HYMN	<i>“Joy to the World”</i>	UMH 246 vs. 1&4
CHRISTMAS EVE HOMILY	<i>“Welcoming the Guest”</i>	Pastor Jackie Freeman
INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION		
CONFESSION AND PARDON		

L: We celebrate You and praise You,
God of new beginnings and surprising opportunities

P: Because You never cease to make Yourself available to us.

L: We appreciate You and thank You,
God of unquenchable life and irrepressible grace

P: Because You continue to offer us the resources of Your Spirit.

L: We love You and embrace You,
God of unfailing compassion and constant companionship

P: Because You walk beside us and transform us into agents of love.

L: Forgive us, O Lord,

***P: When we seek to keep You to ourselves
and shut others from Your influence.***

L: Forgive us, O Christ,

***P: When we wallow in our own weakness
and take advantage of the weakness of others.***

L: Forgive us, O Spirit,

***P: When we deny Your friendship
and withhold Your compassion from others.***

(Silent Confession)

***All: Heal us, restore and empower us, O God, we pray
For the sake of Your kingdom which has broken into our world.***

Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of love and light: just as John the Baptist came long ago in Judea to witness to your light, we remember that the offering you seek is that what we have and how we live should also witness to the light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, then we realize that we are ignoring the call to witness to the light. May we witness through our giving and our compassion, through what we say and what we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

SIXTH READING

John 1: 1-5

Pastor Jackie

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

UMH 239 vs. 1,3,4

BENEDICTION

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**