

THE 54TH ANNUAL  
*Christmas Eve*  
LOVEFEAST



WESLEY MEMORIAL

A METHODIST CONGREGATION

DECEMBER 24, 2025 • 5:00 PM

*Our purpose is to make and sustain spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ who live in ways that transform the world.*

# THE CHRISTMAS EVE LOVEFEAST

---

## PRELUDE

*All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

arr. Gordon Young

*How Great Our Joy*

arr. Lloyd Larson

## WELCOME

## THE CHRISTMAS BIDDING PRAYER

### THE 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, forever. Amen.**

† *Please stand as you are able*

### † CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 174

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1, 3, 4)*

arr. Willcocks

*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: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God, all glory in the highest; Refrain*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; Refrain*

### † THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Abbigail and Jeff Felton  
Cooper and Shepard

### † CHORAL RESPONSE

*Light the Light, the Fire of Life*

IL EST NÉ

*Light the light, the fire of life, let the candle reveal His glory. Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.*

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 180

*The Herald Angels Sing (verses 1, 2, 3)*

arr. Willcocks

*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 hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity; pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Refrain*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. Refrain*

*Please be seated*

CHRISTMAS EVE HOMILY

Rev. Jeff Patterson

THE JOHN WESLEY GRACE

OLD 100TH

*(The congregation and choir will sing)*

**Be present at our table Lord; be here and everywhere adored:  
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee. Amen**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND DRINK

*(As soon as your pew finishes partaking, please pass your napkins and empty cups to your servers)*

*Still, Still, Still*

arr. Bill Ingram

*What is This Lovely Fragrance?*

arr. Daniel Burton

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

arr. John Purifoy

*All Is Well*

arr. Lloyd Larson

*All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice. For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light. Sing alle, sing alleluia. All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth. Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger. Sing alle, sing alleluia. All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing. Born is now Emmanuel; born is our Lord and Savior. Sing alleluia, sing alleluia! All is well.*

## Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

*How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky?  
How can you measure the love of a mother? Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?  
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing, "The Christ child is born." Shepherds  
and wise men will kneel and adore him; seraphim 'round him, their vigil will keep. Nations  
proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour; but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.  
Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger; Christ our Redeemer, asleep in the hay. Godhead  
incarnate and hope of salvation; a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.*

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 179

### *What Child Is This?*

arr. Dodds

*What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping; whom angels greet with  
anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom  
shepherds guard and angels sing! Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of  
Mary!*

*Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for  
sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spears, shall pierce Him through, the cross  
be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him; the King of kings  
salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin  
sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

## SERVICE OF GIVING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

#### *In the Bleak Midwinter*

arr. Mark Hayes

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a  
stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God  
Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but His mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a  
wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

## LIGHTING OF CANDLES

*(Please tilt your unlit candle towards the lighted candle.)*

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 199

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

*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, heav'nly 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.*

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 201

*Joy to the World*

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n, 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.*

*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.*

*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.*

† BENEDICTION

*(After the pastors have recessed, the ushers will direct the congregation to leave, during the last hymn, pew by pew while singing and holding the lighted candle)*

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold through out the heavens there shown a holy light. Refrain*

*The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain*



## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Reverend Dr. Jeff Patterson, Senior Pastor  
Reverend Clark Chilton, Contemporary Worship/Evangelism  
Reverend Lisa Tanico, Senior Adult Ministry  
Reverend Dr. Glenn Myers, Congregational Care/Senior Adults  
Reverend Dr. Ken Lyon, Generosity/Church Vitality/Missions  
Mr. Phillip Leach, baritone soloist and assistant conductor  
Ms. Charli Mills, Director of Traditional Music and Worship Arts  
Mr. Chris Ward, Organist

Chancel Choir  
Handbell Choir  
Mrs. Patti Wood, flute  
Ms. Kennedy Heath, violin  
Ms. Elizabeth Gatewood, violin  
Mr. Jose Olea Vico, violin  
Mr. Joshua Forbes, viola  
Mr. Edward Cho, cello

---

## USHERS

Mr. Tom Smothers  
Mrs. Debbie Smothers  
Mr. Windley Dunbar  
Mr. Scott Dunbar

Ms. Avery Dunbar  
Ms. Melody Emerson  
Mr. Lane Adams  
Mr. Aaron Raack

Mrs. Wendy Adams  
Ms. Vickie Grobes  
Mr. Wray Hodgins  
Mr. Edwin Bass

---

OUR APPRECIATION is expressed to Tom Smothers, Windley Dunbar, and Melody Emerson for coordinating our ushers. Thank you to our Lovefeast committee made up of our staff: Chris Massey, Dena Blake, Tish Schultheiss, and Isabel Cruz. Thank you to the Lovefeast servers, leaders, musicians, and members who helped to make this service possible.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL FOR OUR LOVEFEAST SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE are given for the Glory of God and in celebration of the birth of Jesus by Nan Kester and Lee and Alf Webster and in honor of their grandchildren, Rainey and Guy Brewer, Lucy and Lawrence Dempsey, Nora Rose and Robert and Burton Kester, George, Thomas and William Webster, Jack and Harris Webster and Bess and Dearie Webster, and all of God's children everywhere.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING In this season of generosity and care our Wesley Memorial tradition is to strongly support some of our local mission partners who serve the under resourced in our High Point community. This year we have selected three mission partners that continue to do excellent work providing tangible help and sustaining hope for the individuals and families they serve.

- \* C3 - Community Collaboration for Children
- \* Community Clinic of High Point serving the medical needs of the uninsured.
- \* Second Harvest Food Bank supplies area food pantries that in turn provide needed food to families throughout the High Point area.

Each of these mission partners play a vital role in helping our High Point neighbors who are in challenging circumstances. We can bless their efforts with our financial support. All of this evening's offering will go to Missions. If you would like your offering to go elsewhere, please note the memo line. You may write a check or go online at wesleymemorial.org, tap the "Give" icon and then make your gift online.

Thank you for providing a blessing through your gift.

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES has been made possible, by the Durland Music Endowment Fund. The Durland Music Endowed Fund was established in 1984 by Dr. Philip Bibb Davis and Betsey Durland Davis to honor Oscar C. and Bess Durland. The string players have been sponsored by the Chancel Choir in memory of long-time choir members Bill Garner and Joe Gamble.

## THE METHODIST LOVEFEAST

*In apostolic times, Christians periodically observed a common meal called agape from the Greek word meaning love. The Lovefeast continued as an important part of Christian worship for centuries, but eventually almost faded away. Then in 1727, a little band of Moravians gathered by Count Zinzendorf reintroduced it. Moravian missionaries and immigrants carried the custom to America, and it was here on August 8, 1737—only ten years after its reintroduction—that John Wesley shared the Lovefeast and was greatly impressed with the service. The following year, after he experienced the “heart-warming” awakening at Aldersgate, Wesley introduced the Lovefeast to the people called Methodist, and among the rules adopted for the Society was a provision for the Lovefeast to be held at regularly appointed times. The most significant feature of those early Lovefeasts was not the “simple meal” or the candles (which were used only at Christmas), but the personal testimonies of the power of divine love to transform human life. The Lovefeast quickly became a normal feature of the evangelical revival in England and America. For over two hundred years, it has been an important part of the Methodist heritage in America as well as in England and other parts of the world.*



# ONE

## Combined Service

*Final Sermon of 2025*  
“A Long Time Coming”  
*Luke 2: 22-35*

# SUNDAY 10 a.m.

DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>  
IN THE SANCTUARY

CHILDCARE  
FOR AGES 0-3

Community Pastors in Support of  
NEW LIFE FAMILY OUTREACH  
Present

## A Sanctity of Human Life COMMUNITY SERVICE

# 01. 20. 2026

7:00 PM

Hosted by:  
WESLEY MEMORIAL  
METHODIST CHURCH

Featuring  
**Dr. Ben Carson**

REGISTRATION REQUESTED  
Scan QR Code to register



For more information visit:  
[WWW.FRIENDSOFNEWLIFE.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFNEWLIFE.ORG)

You can find the registration link on our Announcement Page. If you do not have access to technology, you may call the front desk at 336-884-2204 to get assistance signing up and printing your ticket.