

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2025 – 3:00 PM

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude—Guitar

Dean Manning

Opening – Sing We Now Of Christmas

Instrumental Ensemble

A Word of Greeting/Centering Words –

Minister 'Ainise Isama'u

There is an abandoned house on my block.

Maybe someone owns it and is just waiting to fix it up,
or maybe it belongs to a family that simply cannot let it go.

Either way, the yard is an overgrown tangle of weeds—
crabgrass and yellow nutsedge, horsetail and clover—
unforgiving and entrenched.

Over the summer, a honeysuckle bush crept
from that forgotten house over the fence and through the yard.

It spilled out in broad patches on the sidewalk. As a result,
you could not pass that mess of a house without the taste of honey in your mouth.

You could not pass that mess of a house without being engulfed in the sweet scent
of something good. It was almost as if the earth was saying, sure, things are chaotic here,
but pause for a moment. Pull a flower bud off in your fingers. Break the stem.

Slurp the tiny bead of honey at the base. Remember that even when bad news is unforgiving
and entrenched, good news grows out of its cage, across the sidewalk, just to get to you.

Opening – O Come, Emmanuel

Choir and Praise Band

Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship

Call to Worship (L: Leader, **P: People**)

Karen Matsuyama

L: On this holy night, we come,

**P: dazzled and awe-struck,
ready to sing alongside the angels.**

L: On this holy night, we come,

**P: eager and hopeful,
ready to journey alongside the shepherds.**

L: On this holy night, we come,

**P: quietly and tenderly,
ready to worship alongside Mary.**

L: On this holy night, we come,

**P: singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming:
good news is louder than fear.**

L: Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

Opening Prayer

Karen Matsuyama

Holy God, On this sacred night, we gather in wonder—our hearts dazzled by Your glory, our spirits stirred by Your nearness. Like the angels, lift our voices in praise. Like the shepherds, open our hearts to surprise. Like Mary, quiet our souls so we may treasure every sign of Your love revealed among us. As we hear again the story of Your birth—the good news that breaks through darkness, the hope that rises louder than fear—draw us close to Your with-us presence. May this time of worship awaken joy in us, rekindle trust within us, and send us proclaiming peace to the world. Be born in us again tonight, O Christ, our Light and our Good News. Amen.

Advent Wreath Lighting

Azzam Family

Special Music –Welcome to Our World

Whitney Nakayama, solo

The Word of God for the People of God

A Message for the Children (In Us All)

Minister 'Ainise Isama'u

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Karen Matsuyama

2 In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. **2** This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. **3** Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. **4** Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. **5** He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. **6** While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. **7** She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

8 Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. **9** The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. **11** Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. **12** This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." **13** Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, **14** "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

15 When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." **16** They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. **18** Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. **20** The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

L: The word of God for all People.

P: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn – Christmas Carol Medley Congregation, Faith Choir & Praise Band

Sermon – Good News Is Louder than Fear Rev. Allison Mark

Pastoral Prayer – Lord’s Prayer Rev. Allison Mark

Special Music- Saxophone Instrumental Justin Klunk

We Respond to God’s Grace

Offering our Gifts – Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

Offertory – Joyful, Joyful Instrumental Ensemble

Prayer of Dedication Karen Matsuyama

God of good news and great joy, on this holy night we offer You our gifts, our voices, our hopes, and our lives. As the angels proclaimed, as the shepherds hurried, as Mary treasured every moment—may we, too, respond with wholehearted trust. Take what we bring, O Christ, and use it to shine light into the shadows, to carry hope where fear has taken root, and to share love wherever it is most needed. May these gifts—and we who give them—proclaim that Your presence is among us and that Your good news is still being born in this world. This we dedicate to You, our with-us God. Amen.

The Light That Shines in The Darkness

Lighting of Candles – Peace, Peace/Silent Night Choirs/Instrumental Ensemble/Congregation

Going Forth in God’s Holy Name

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

Closing Hymn – Go Tell It On the Mountain Congregation, Faith Band

Commission and Blessings – Rev. Allison Mark

Passing of the Peace- Postlude- Go Tell It on the Mountain Faith Band