



Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2023.

5:00 p.m.

Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Sandra Parker and Sophie Edwards

Greeting

Michael Edwards

Prelude

Stuart Joerg

*Call to Worship

Laura Edwards, Kay Firda, and Payton Sanudo

The impossible is about to happen in a stable.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them has the light shined!**

This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath,
for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.
**This is the evening when God embraced humanity
from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth. Amen!**

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

Jesse, Kerri, Tyler, Zachary, and Graham Bilthuis

...Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

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.

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...

Sung Response No. 87 (vv. 1 and 4)

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

Responsive Prayer

Carlisle Davidhizar

Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father; Swaddled, crying, hungry baby,

You came when our need was the greatest.

You came not in majesty but in a manger.

You came when it was dark,

Not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues the weary;

But the frightening darkness, as when people lose their hope,

And hearts break into pieces, and hatred starts to seem reasonable.

You came when the world was dark,

Looking so much like one of us, and yet calling us to be like you.

You came as light,

A kind of light we had never seen before, the kind of light that made us realize,

Perhaps for the first time, just how dark the darkness had become.

Our eyes had become too adjusted, and heavy hearts slowed our steps.

But on this holy night,

Even we who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father,

Swaddled, crying, hungry baby, born to rescue people who walk in the dark.

We worship and adore you, Our light, Our life, God's living Word become flesh. Amen.

Solo

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Scott Richards

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Ethan Davidhizar

Solo

The First Noel

Sophie Edwards

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Amanda Seaman

Solo

All is Well

Sharon Labons

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Gwen Hagen

Homily

Angel Words

Michael Edwards

* Carol No. 103

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer (ending with the Lord's Prayer)

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

* The Light of Christ

When passing the flame, always keep your lit candle upright while the next person tilts his or her unlit candle to yours. Candles can be extinguished following the Benediction and returned to the Narthex.

* Carol No. 91

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

* Charge

Anna Edwards

On the Eve of Christmas:

Hatred will vanish.

On the Eve of Christmas:

The earth will flourish.

On the Eve of Christmas:

Violence will be gone.

On the Eve of Christmas:

Love will be born.

When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person

it is Christmas.

When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love

it is Christmas.

When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes

it is Christmas.

When the spirit of revenge dies in me

it is Christmas.

When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart

it is Christmas.

* Benediction

Michael Edwards

* Postlude

Stuart Joerg

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

So that we can get to know you, please complete the following and place it in the offering plate later in worship.

This Week at May Memorial:

Sunday, December 24

10:00 a.m. Worship-Advent IV
Children's Church

5:00 p.m. Worship-Christmas Eve

Monday, December 25

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 25

Church Office Closed

Guest Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Ages (circle) 0-12, 13-18, 19-35, 36-55, 56+

Preferred way for us to contact you: _____ phone _____ text _____ email

May Memorial Staff

Carlisle Davidhizar, *Associate Pastor for Families and Community*
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Michael Edwards, *Senior Pastor*
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Patricia Hutchinson, *Financial Secretary*
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Stuart Joerg, *Organist and Director of Music*
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Sandra Parker, *Pianist and Choir Accompanist*
servnhim4@msn.com

Diana Schmitz, *Administrative Assistant*
maymemoffice@gmail.com

Tammy Schoeffel, *Church Custodian*
(804) 598-3098

Arlie Thomas, *Facilities Coordinator*
(804) 598-3098

Announcements

Undecorating Day – On Saturday, January 6, at 9:00 a.m. we are looking for volunteers to help undecorate the Chrismon Tree, the sanctuary and the Commons Area.

Mid-Week Meal and Program – January 10 - The topic will be cyber safety led by Ethan Davidhizar.

Men’s Breakfast – The men will meet at Frisby’s on Thursday, January 11 at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship.

The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in April has been redirected to Greece for a trip “In the Steps of Paul.” We will visit many Biblical sites including Philippi, Ephesus, Corinth, and even the Island of Patmos. If you are interested in this trip, contact Pastor Michael or the church office.

A Day to Welcome New Members! – On Sunday, January 28 May Memorial will welcome new members into our congregation. If you would like to join May Memorial, please let Pastor Michael know, or the church office.

Deacons, Mark Your Calendar – The Deacon Retreat will be Saturday, January 20.

Prayer Request

Please add the following person to the May Memorial Prayer List:

Are you receiving the May Memorial e-mails or mailings?

Several e-mails are sent from the church office weekly including the church’s newsletter, the May Memorial Messenger, as well as other important weekly church family updates. Please sign up here if you would like to be added to the email list and start receiving these messages.

Name _____

E-mail _____

May Memorial is a wonderful church family that provides opportunities for people of all ages to pursue their faith story through Worship, Spiritual Formation, Missions, and Fellowship.

We welcome children of all ages in worship with their families. There is a nursery provided as well as children’s church. All our children’s workers have undergone screening and background checks.

We thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We pray for God’s blessing on you and your family.