

**LUKE 2:1-20****THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

**2** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.<sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.<sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his  
favor rests."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

*Christmas Eve*

*Ellijay First United Methodist Church*



*December 24, 2025*

*5:30 pm*

**Christmas Eve**  
**Ellijay First United Methodist Church**  
**December 24, 2025**

**Prelude** arr. by Mary McDonald  
“One, In David’s Royal City”

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**  
**The Shearon Family**

Tonight we light the Christ candle representing Jesus the Light of the World, who has come to bring salvation and Light to All. It is white and symbolizes purity and holiness and reflect the sinless nature of Christ our Lord.

Gracious God of Mercy and Light, as we light the Christ Candle, we celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus, who left heaven to be with us. We adore You, dear Jesus, and welcome You into our hearts and homes. May Your Light fill us, and may we reflect Your light, joy, peace, and hope to a world that desperately needs it. Thank You Father God for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

**The First Noel** UMH 245

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**The Offertory Music** arr. by Mark Hayes  
“O, Holy Night”

**The Presentation and Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

**In The Bleak Midwinter** UMH 221

**The Scripture Reading** Luke 2:1-20

**Special Music** Soloist: Scott Cruce  
“Mary Did You Know?” by Lowry & Greene

**Christmas Devotion** Rev. Dr. Shearon

**Candle Lighting**

For your safety, and to protect our Sanctuary, please hold all the lit candles upright. You will, please, tilt your unlit candle into the lit candle next to you to prevent dripping and burning of hot wax.

**Silent Night** UMH 239  
As candles are being lit.

**Hark The Herald Angels Sing** UMH 240

**Benediction** Rev. Dr. Shearon

**Postlude** arr. by Lloyd Larson  
“He is Born”