

Poinsettia Honoraria

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Sally Abbe
In honor of the Chrismon Beaders
In memory of Gloria Hille, Tooley
Wilkinson, Mildred Wylie,
& Marilyn McMillan

The Albright Family
In memory of Valerie, Mary, & Dale

Reese & Briggs Albright
In honor of Daddy & Mommy

Jamie & Sammy Biggers
In honor of our children,
grandchildren, & great-grandchild

Dennis & Sue Cates
In memory of Robert N. & Wanda
June Cates & Randall &
Mary Jo Sadler

Ron & Donna Chandler
In memory of Ted & Betty Dotts
& Fred & Glenda Wright

Rev. Archie & Donna Echols
In honor of Rev. Daniel & Cecilee
Echols, Isaac, Mara, & Chloe Echols,
Luke Echols, & Michelle, Brad,
Haley, & Madison Ott
In memory of Paul Arnpriester
& our parents

VelvetLee Elder
In honor of my loving husband,
Jared Elder, my father, Dwight
Finckbone, my brothers, Tim & Matt
Finckbone, & my nieces & nephews

In memory of my mother Charlotte
Maclver, my cousin Joseph Vassar,
my aunt Rebecca Vassar,
my in-laws Ronald & Ilene Elder,
& my grandparents John & Jackie
Vassar & Alda & Violet Finckbone

Jowannah Ellis
In honor & appreciation of
the St. John's staff.

Emalie Endsley
In memory of Brent Endsley

Mike & Mary Hamilton
In honor of our children,
grandchildren,
& great-grandchildren

Betsey Heavner
In honor of the witness of the
St. John's community
In memory of family and friends
who have formed me

Michael Jordan & Marie Cox
In memory of Paul & JoAnn Jordan

Kelley LaRue
In memory of Mary Lou
& Ed Rhodes

Jatawn Mahan & Family
In memory of Daddy B.

Becky Maul & Cindy Albright
In memory of B.R. & Barbara
Burlison & Natalie Crawford

Bobby McMillan
In honor of St. John's United
Methodist Church for all that this
community of love, justice, hope, &
peace represents

In memory of my beloved soul
mate for 62 years of joy,
Marilyn McMillan

Sarah & Joe Nuckolls
In honor of the Chrismon Beaders
& our new grandchild, baby Phillips

Wesley Orr & Isaac Ramirez
In honor of our families
at church & at home

Peter & Tricia Reed
In honor of Dave & Dennie Treat,
Grace, Maggie, & Will Reed

Nick Robinson & Jude Meche
In memory of Dustin O'Brien,
Donald Williams, Witness Meche,
& Julia Meche
In memory of Richard & Betty
Darling, & Jack Damon
& Lillian Robinson

Paul & Myrna Shuey
In honor of Erma Hebdon
In memory of Dolly Shuey, Henry
Shuey, Sr. & Fred Hebdon

Lola J. Smith-Gentry
In honor of Derrick, Josh, Lillian,
David, Natalie, Adam, Mark, & Zach
In honor of Carmen, Victoria, Levi,
Jackson, Austin, & Jordan

Josh & Marcy Stueve
In honor of St. John's Small
Council & Staff leadership

Dave & Dennie Treat
In honor of Peter, Tricia, Grace,
Maggie, & Will Reed & Todd,
Renee, Sam, Kate, & Tim Treat
In honor of the
Journey Sunday School class

Robby Vestal
In honor of Rob Scoggins
In memory of Kenneth, Mozelle,
and Steve Vestal, Vera Perkins,
James and Betty Baker, Rollin
& Helenoire Herald, &
Johnny & Alura Spikes

Jeff Watson
In gratitude for the St. John's
UMC Staff & Volunteers

Brent Wester
In memory of Edward & Jo Wester,
Maude & Harvey Powell, &
Sybil & James Wester



*Altar flowers this evening are given by Robby Vestal
in Loving Memory of Bobby, Jaycene, & Chancellor Vuicich*

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

5:30 p.m.

 **ST. JOHN'S**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Address: 1501 University Ave. Lubbock, TX 79401

Phone: 806-762-0123 **Web:** stjohslubbock.org

Email: openminds@stjohslubbock.org

The Worship of God - 5:30 P.M. Service

ENTRANCE

**Gathering Revs. Josh Stueve & Ann Akin

Prelude Clint Barrick

Lighting the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle Jared & VelvetLee Elder

Tonight we tell the story that we tell every year—the story of Christ's birth, the story of love made flesh. It's a story that weaves through every generation. It's a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

So tonight we light the Christ candle, because from generation to generation, our story belongs to God. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*Hymn No. 234 v. 1-3 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*Gospel Lesson - Luke 2: 1-14, p. 58, N.T. Allison Matherly
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Act of Praise Jeannie Barrick, soprano
O Holy Night Adolphe Adam

*O holy night, the stars
are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear
Saviour's birth;*

*Long lay the world in
sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and
the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the
weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a
new and glorious morn;*

*Fall on your knees,
Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was
born.
O night, O holy night,
O night divine.*

*Led by the light of
Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts
by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star
sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise
men from Orient land,*

*The King of Kings lay
thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to
be our friend;*

*He knows our need,
To our weakness no stranger!
Behold your King! Before Him
lowly bend!
Behold your King! your King!
before him bend!*

*Truly He taught us to
love one another;
His law is Love and
His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break,
for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all
oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in
grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his Holy name!*

*Christ is the Lord, then
ever! ever praise we!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!*

A Time for Young Disciples
Hymn No. 217
Away in a Manger

As the children come forward:
*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his
sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down
where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus,
asleep on the hay.*

Homily

Prayer of Response
A Blessing for Christmas

God, this is a kind of magic
the way this day shines so strangely,
how it sparkles beyond our understanding.
(Yes, it was a disaster
the way the food turned out this year
and how what's-her-face said
—I told her not to—
what shouldn't be repeated.)
But, somehow, this day
never fails to awaken a longing
to love well—or at least better—
all those here with us, and those far away,
and to remember with gratitude
those now gone, gone, gone and missed.
What is this mystery?
Our God,
who set the world spinning,
should come down
for this one reason:
to love us into newness.
Not for gain,
nor our capitalist fantasies,
but for the hope so freely, lavishly given
that we might learn to see,
feel, and live Christ's love.
Thank you,
Christ the Giver
and the Gift.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*Please approach the altar using the center aisle.
You may kneel or stand at the communion rail. Please speak your name to
the servers so that you may receive the bread and cup
by name. We receive by intinction. (As you receive the bread,
hold it until the cup is offered. Dip the bread into the cup and then eat.)*

*When you are ready, you may return to your seat using the
side aisles. If you are unable to come to the altar,
please tell an usher so that we may serve you in your seat.
Our communion bread is vegan, free of dairy, egg, and gluten.*

Marcy Stueve
The United Methodist Hymnal
AWAY IN A MANGER

As the children depart:
*Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask thee to stay
close by me forever,
and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with thee there.*

Rev. Josh Stueve

Rev. Ann Akin
Kate Bowler

*All people gathered to worship God are invited
to receive the bread and the cup.*

Communion Stewards: Allison Matherly & Jennifer Pierce

Invitation to the Table Revs. Josh Stueve & Rev. Ann Akin
The Great Thanksgiving
Sharing the Bread and Cup

Music for Communion
Hymn No. 242 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Love Came Down at Christmas GARTAN

Hymn No. 219 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
What Child Is This GREENSLEEVES

Hymn No. 229 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly W ZLOBIE LEZY

SENDING FORTH

Sharing God's Holy Light Rev. Ann Akin
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests
upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow
continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of
David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice
and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Hymn of Light, No. 239 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Silent Night, Holy Night STILLE NACHT

*The pastors will bring light from the Christ candle
to those sitting on the center aisle to begin the sharing of light.
To minimize dripping, please hold burning candles upright
while your neighbor lights their candle from yours.*

*A Christmas Blessing Rev. Josh Stueve
The story goes on. When the angels had left them and gone into
heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to
Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the
Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found
Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they
saw this, they made known what had been told them about this
child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds
told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered
them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they
had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:15-20)

*Hymn No. 246 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Joy to the World ANTIOCH

*You're invited to stand at moments in this service marked with an asterisk.
**Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.