

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we promise ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Most gracious God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family; strengthen us to be a blessing to one another and a blessing to all the world, glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle to proclaim that, out of love for the world, God dispelled darkness forever through the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

**May the Lord Jesus Christ take all darkness out of our hearts, now and forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

\* HYMN

“SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT”

1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the  
sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly  
hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of re-  
deeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4. 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!

***SENDING FORTH***

BENEDICTION

\* HYMN

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him  
room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature  
sing, and heaven and heaven, and nature sing.

2. 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 sound-  
ing joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

POSTLUDE

“NOEL”

Balbastre

In worship with us this evening are the Aldersgate Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir (Nancy Miller, Susan Gober, Leigh Cupp, David Pitts, Susan Pitts, Debbie Nelson, Celesta Sargent, Cindy Pletcher, and Jennie Montgomery).

*The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Judson Hickey by Jean Hickey.*

**ALDERSGATE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3185 Wheeler Road • Augusta, Georgia 30909 •

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**Rev. John Pinson, Senior Pastor**

**THE GATHERING**

PRELUDE	“JESU, JOY OF MAN’S DESIRING”	Bach
	“IN THE NIGHT’S DEEP SILENCE”	Uehlein
	“CANON IN D”	Pachelbel

## GREETING

Do not be afraid; For see—I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people:

**To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,**

**Who is the Messiah, the Lord.**

## \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,<br>O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and<br>behold him, born the King of angels; | 2. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,<br>leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;<br>we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; |
| 3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;<br>O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!<br>Glory to God, all glory in the highest;      | 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy<br>morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.<br>Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:      |

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

## \*PRAYER

O God, you so loved the world as to give your only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Grant to us the precious gift of faith, that we may know that the Son of God is come,  
and may have power to overcome the world and gain a blessed immortality;**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## \*THE PEACE

*The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
And also with you (people greet one another).*

ANTHEM	“HE IS BORN”	arr. Hobby
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**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	ISAIAH 9:2-7
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*GOSPEL LESSON	LUKE 2:1-20
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## PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING OF GIFTS *(There are special Missions envelopes this year for the offering. Please designate by envelope and on the memo line where your gift should go)*

OFFERTORY	“BEFORE THE MARVEL OF THIS NIGHT”	Schalk
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## \* HYMN

## “ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

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|---|--|
| 1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing<br>o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing<br>their joyous strains.       | 2. Shepherd, why this jubilee? Why your joyous<br>strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which<br>inspire your heavenly song? |
| 3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth<br>the angels sing; come adore, on bended knee,<br>Christ the Lord, the newborn King. | 4. See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels<br>praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in<br>love we raise. |

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*Tonight, we take communion by intinction, an ancient practice of dipping the bread into the cup as we stand. The ushers will direct each row to the altar.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior,

and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.