



*Celebrating generations of God's
goodness, faithfulness, and love.*

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**December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve Singstunde
Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Watchword for the Week – The mighty one has done great things for me and holy is His name. Luke 1:49

Welcome to our service of worship on this fourth Sunday of Advent - a four-week season of the church year devoted to preparing for the coming of Christ. Today, we light the fourth candle in our Advent Wreath. This candle is sometimes referred to as the Angel Candle or the Candle of Love. It reminds us of the angels who announced the good news of the Savior's birth. More importantly, it reminds us that Jesus Christ is the perfect expression of God's infinite love: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16-17, NKJV). Jesus is the true Gift of Christmas!

If you are visiting with us today we are especially glad you're here. We consider you an honored guest and hope you will return and worship with us often in the weeks to come. If you are looking for a church home – a place where you can share Christian fellowship, learn, serve and grow as a follower of Jesus – we would love to talk to you about joining the Friedberg church family.

Prelude Sr. Bell Choir

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

V. 1 - Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free. From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art, Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

FRIEDBERG MORAVIAN CHURCH PRAYER CONCERNS
December 24, 2023

MEMBERS

William Boles	J.T. Hopkins	Mary Lou Pitts
Everlea Bostick	Debbie James	Martha Plyler
Phil Carter	Larry Jarvis	Betty Sink
Al Coleman	Robbie Joyce	Clay Sink
Tim Conley	Irv Keck	Bob & Judy Smith
Emily Essick	Yvonne Lemons	Chris Snyder
Jerry Evans	Rebecca Mickey	Larry Snyder
Don Faust	Reba Payne	Jerry & Gail Tolley
Mike Hampton	Kolton Pennell	

Family and Friends Prayer Concerns Submitted Since Last Sunday: Bill Barham, Mike Carter, Payton Eccles, Family of Mike Harrington, Larry Koontz. Family of William Marshall, Shelby Miller, Mary Alice Myers, James & Amanda Newton, Roger & Patty Swing

MEMBERS AND RELATIVES IN MILITARY

Dylan Bundy	Alex Kennedy	Jon Eric Spaar, Jr.
Dylan Coleman	Patrick Mickey	Ryan Spach
Ben Greeson	Daniel Randleman	Brandon Thompson
Jennifer Greenwood	Colton Scott	Aidan Wheeler
Dakota Holtzclaw		

**MISSIONARIES AND MINISTRIES RECEIVING
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM FRIEDBERG**

ARMF (Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation)
Safie Braima - Sierra Leone
Charlie & Vicki Brent – CRU (Campus Crusade), Texas A & M University
Michael and Brenda Brent – CRU (Campus Crusade), Croatia
Anna Stewart Faircloth – Young Life
Keith Graham - Cookies for Christ
Dusty and Christin Harrison – Intervarsity, Clemson University
Hoof and Paw Therapeutic Riding and Activity Center
Phil III & Eunice Raiford, Commission to Every Nation (CTEN) - Mexico
Michael and Ceci Tesh, Ray of Hope Orphanage – Kenya
Friends of Moravian Prison Ministry
Joey Yokely – Fellowship of Christian Athletes

You are invited to breakfast in the Family Life Center on Sunday, December 31 for the 5th Sunday breakfast presented by the C.E. Board. The menu will be donut holes, yogurt bar, fruit and coffee and water. Let's fellowship and reflect on the wonderful year we have been blessed with here at Friedberg. We will begin serving breakfast at 9:30 a.m. for anyone who wishes to go to their Sunday School Class. All children ages 2-5th grade will stay in the FLC during Sunday Scholl.

Unity Prayer Watch is an unbroken chain of prayer that has been a vital part of the life and ministry of the Moravian Church for decades. Friedberg's assigned portion of the prayer watch is **Thursday, January 4, 2024**, from midnight. – 8:00 a.m. Please consider making a commitment to pray for one or more 30-minute segments of time. A sign-up sheet, along with an extensive list of prayer concerns, is posted on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Men, jump start your New Year with fellowship, inspiration, and breakfast! **First Friday Breakfast** is January 5th, 2024 7 AM sharp. Pastor Dan Nelson will provide the inspiration. You bring the fellowship, and we'll provide the breakfast.

Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

9:00 a.m.	Pictures made in FLC for 250th Directory
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship-Singstunde in the Sanctuary
12:15 p.m.	Pictures made in FLC for 250th Directory
4:00 p.m.	Band Prelude
4:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Lovefeast and Candle Service

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m.	Pictures made in FLC for 250th Directory
9:15 a.m.	Band Prelude
9:25 a.m.	Prayer Partners-Parlor
9:30 a.m.	5th Sunday Breakfast-Family Life Center
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship/Livestream
12:15 p.m.	Pictures made in FLC for 250th Directory

V 2 - Born Your people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever, now your gracious Kingdom bring. By Your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone, By Your all-sufficient merit raise us to Your glorious throne.

Luke 2:1-3

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

V.1 - O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

**Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

V.2 - O Come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

* Chorus

Luke 2:4

Once in Royal David's City

V. 1 - Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for His bed. Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little Child.

V. -2- He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable and His cradle was a stall. With the poor, and mean, and lowly lived on earth, our Savior Holy.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

V. 1 - O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see Thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.

V. 2 - O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel

Luke 2: 6,7

Silent Night

V. 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.*

V. 2 - *Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure Light. Radiant beams from Your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

O Come Little Children

V.1 - *O come, little children, O come, one and all! O come to the cradle in Bethlehem's stall! Come, see what has happened this holiest night; Come gaze on the gift from the Father of Might.*

V.2 - *Behold, in the manger, that strange little bed, a Child, sweet and gentle, is resting His head, a Babe, clad in garments so pure and so white, and fairer by far than the angels of light.*

Luke 2:8

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

V.1 - *While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shown around.*

The First Noel

V.1 - *The first Noel, the angel did say, Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Chorus: *Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.*

V.2 - *They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.*

*Chorus

V.3 - *This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.*

*Chorus

The Advent Wreath is placed in the sanctuary in memory of Evva Hanes.

The Poinsettias in the sanctuary were given by David and Valerie Burchette in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on December 24.

The candles in the windows in the sanctuary are donated by Annie Rowe and her family in memory of Ralph Rowe.

This week in Friedberg's History: December 25, 1770, the first Christmas Lovefeast was held at Friedberg. A violin, played by Peter Volz, was used to provide music for the singing. The children were given honey cakes and Bible verses at the service. The Friedberg diary states, "The children were full of wonder and joy, it being the first time they had attended such a service." Moravian candles were first used in America at the 1752 Christmas Eve service for children in Bethlehem. This occasion was recorded in the Bethlehem Diary: "Br. Graff held a service for the children in which a small burning candle was distributed to each child. Their hearts and ours rejoiced with play and song over the birth of our Savior."

Christmas Post Office – We are grateful to the Youth for providing the Christmas Post Office boxes this year. Please pick up your cards today. The boxes are in alphabetical order in the hallway between the Parlor and Discovery classroom.

250th Anniversary Church Directory – There are still two opportunities to have pictures taken for the 250th Anniversary Church Directory, today, December 24 and next Sunday, December 31. Family and Individual photos will be taken before Sunday School from 9:00 am to 9:45 am and following the worship service. All photos will be taken in the Family Life Center. This directory is being produced internally so there is no cost to have your photo taken and included in the directory. No appointments necessary, photos will be taken on a first-come first-serve basis.

There will be no Children's Church today. Everyone is invited to join in this special Christmas Eve Service.

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

V.1 - *Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown when Thou camest to earth for me; But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room for Thy holy nativity.*

*Chorus: *O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.*

V.2 - *Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming Thy royal degree; But of lowly birth Thou didst come to earth, And in great humility.*

*Chorus

V.3 - *Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word that should set Thy people free; But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn they bore Thee to Calvary.*

*Chorus

V.4 - *When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing at Thy coming to victory, Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yes there is room, there is room at my side for thee." My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, When Thou comest and callest for me!*

Joy to the World!

V.1 - *Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

V.2 - *He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.*

Benediction

Postlude

Luke 2:9-11

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

V.1 - *It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold "Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heav'n's all gracious King!" The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

V.2.- *Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world, above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hov'ring wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

O Come All Ye Faithful

V.1 - *O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!*

*Chorus: *O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him Christ, the Lord!*

V.2 - *Sing, choirs of angels. Sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above: Glory to God all glory in the highest.*

*Chorus

Luke 2:12

Away in a Manger

V.1 - *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.*

V.2 - *The cattle are lowing; the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side 'til morning is nigh.*

Luke 2:13,14

Angels from the Realms of Glory

V.1 - *Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

**Chorus: Come and worship, come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.*

V.2 - Tho' an Infant now we view Him, He will share His Father's throne; Gather all the nations to Him; Every knee shall then bow down:

**Chorus*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

V.1 - Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Chorus: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

V.2 - Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die, Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

**Chorus*

Luke 2:15

Angels We Have Heard on High

V.1 - Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their brave delight.

**Chorus: Glo__ria__ in excelsis Deo. Glo__ria__ in excelsis Deo.*

V.2 - See Him in a manger laid Whom the angels praise above; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

**Chorus*

Luke 2:16

What Child is This?

V.1 - What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

**Chorus: This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

V.2 - So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own Him. The King of Kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

**Chorus*

Luke 2:17-19

O Holy Night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior'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! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Luke 2:20

Matthew 2:1-2

Matthew 2:9-11

We Three Kings

V.1 - We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar. Field and fountain, moor, and mountain following yonder star.

**Chorus: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

V.2 - Born a King on Bethlehem's plain; Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

**Chorus*

Giving of Our Tithes and Offering