

## Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.  
2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.  
9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15When 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." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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Rev. Anita Noble Taylor (919) 630-9160  
Desiree Davis-Omburo, Director of Music  
Betty Romani, Accompanist

**Sunday, Dec. 25** – Christmas Day Service (10:00 AM)

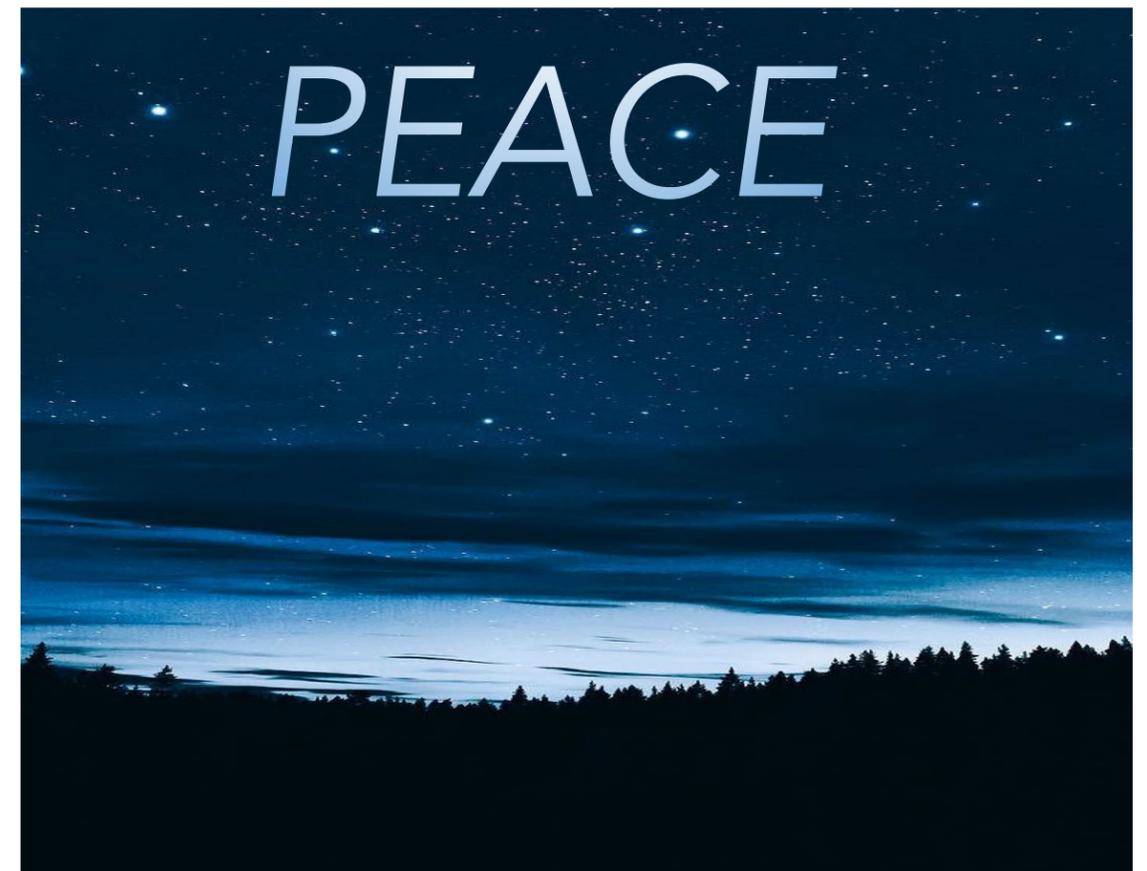
**Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017** – One Service (10:00 AM)

**Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017** – Baptism of the Lord Sunday  
(11:00 AM)

**Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017** – Consecration of New Leaders  
(11:00 AM)

# PARKWOOD

United Methodist Church



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2016

**A Service of Word and Table**  
Saturday, December 24, 2016 • Christmas Eve  
Candlelight & Communion

**Chiming the Trinity**

**Welcome & Gathering Words**

*We have been waiting for the blessed hope of Christmas, for the glorious appearance of Christ. Christ comes with promises of peace, hope, joy, and love.*

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

*On this night, Christ is born! **Now the Savior has appeared!**  
On this night, the heavenly chorus resounds! **All creation rejoices!**  
On this night, the church throughout the world joins their cry: **Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!***

**Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

***God of endless peace, bless us with the great light of your love and grace. Grant us your peace and hope, as we sing of your glory and rejoice in the birth of your Son. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.***

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**      *"Come, Lord Jesus, Come"*      **(Please see insert)**

**\*\* Hymn of Praise**      *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*      **UMH No. 238**

**Prayer of Illumination**

*Open us, O God, to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind with the shepherds to Bethlehem to see the glorious redemption you have brought to pass through the Newborn lying in a manger. **Amen.***

**\*\* Gospel Reading**      Luke 2:1-20      **Pew Bible p. 54-5 (NT)**

**Homily**      *"PEACE"*      **Rev. Anita Noble Taylor**

**Advent Affirmation of Faith (In Unison)**

***We believe in the coming of the Light that shatters all darkness and brings love to all people. We believe in peace, and that one day all nations shall enter the house of God, where love and mercy flow like a mighty river. We believe in waiting patiently for the coming of the Lord, knowing it is Christ who restores us and leads us to salvation. We believe in being ready, for Christ comes at unexpected times and places, in the form of strangers, friends, and family. We believe that we are called to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us. We believe that the Holy Spirit helps us live in harmony with one another, and prepare our hearts and our lives for the birth of a child who is called "Prince of Peace," "Emmanuel," "God with us." Amen.***

**Prayers of Intercession**

*God of glory, by your grace a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders, and in his name we pray.*

*Wonderful Counselor, **we pray for wisdom for the world's leaders, that they may use their power to lift burdens and break the bonds of oppression.***

*Mighty God, **we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord, that you will multiply and increase our joy as we share in the harvest you have gathered.***

*Everlasting Father, **we pray for families, friends, and loved ones, that those who now walk in deep darkness may see the great light of your saving love.***

*Prince of Peace, **we pray for an end to violence and warfare, that your authority may continue to grow until there is endless peace in every land.***

*Lord of hosts, **establish your holy realm with justice and righteousness, from this time on and forevermore. Amen.***

**Offering**      *"Night of Silence"*      **by Daniel Kantor**

*(All are invited to bring their food items forward to the altar rail. The offering plates are positioned in the front and rear of the sanctuary. All monetary donations will go to Hurricane Matthew Relief. All food items will go to Urban Ministries. Thank you for your generous support in sharing the light of Christ into the world.)*

**\*\* Doxology**      *"Canticle of Light and Darkness" (Response 3)*      **UMH No. 205**

**RESPONSE 3 (Christmas)**



**\*\* Offering Prayer (In Unison)**  
***Bring good news through these gifts, O God. Through our love and generosity, spread wonderful, joyous news for all people, that all may sing of your glory and your peace on earth! Amen.***

**Celebration of Holy Communion**      **UMH No. 12**

*"Wexford Carol" – Debbie Carroll, Olly & Hope Roberts*

*"Away in a Manger"*      **UMH No. 217**

*"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*      **UMH No. 218**

*"What Child Is This"*      **UMH No. 219**

**Prayer After Communion**      **UMH No. 11**

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**\*\* Lighting of the Candles**  
*"Silent Night, Holy Night"*      **UMH No. 239**  
*"Joy to the World"*      **UMH No. 246**

**\*\* Dismissal with Blessing**  
*May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**  
Go forth in peace and joy. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!***

**\*\* Chiming the Trinity**

**\*\* Postlude**

**\*\* Please stand as you are able.**