

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lessons and Carols

Join us for worship Sunday, Dec. 31 at 11 a.m. for a service of Lessons and Carols. We will hear familiar, uplifting scripture, sing all of our favorite Christmas carols, and share in Holy Communion. Children (and people of all ages) are welcome to wear pajamas and bring toys for a “toy blessing” during the children’s moment.

Advent Angel Tree

This year our Advent Angel Tree supports the teachers and classrooms at Lake Forest Elementary School, a local Title I school that appreciates our partnership and support!

Sunday Supper and Study

Join us Jan. 14 - Feb. 18 for six weeks of Sunday evening connection over scripture and supper!

Pastors Kate and Kyle will lead an engaging video adult bible study from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Animate: Practices, digging into various Christian practices: Serving, Community, Worship, Food, Sacraments, and Prayer.

Children will have the opportunity to engage in age-appropriate lessons around these themes as well. Dinner will follow from 5:30-6 p.m.

Register today at ssumc.org/grow!

Giving Notice

Unless otherwise designated, 100% of the church’s Christmas Eve offering goes to support the Good Samaritan Fund. This fund allows the church to respond to the needs of people in our community, such as rental assistance, transportation needs, household bills, etc.

Also, as we approach the end of another year, this is a reminder that 2023 contributions must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31 to be applied toward your account this year. Thank you!

Ways To Pledge:



- Offering Plate: Fill out a physical pledge card and put it in the offering plate.
- Online: Pledge securely at ssumc.org/pledge, or by scanning the QR code.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Kate Floyd	Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Kyle Tau	Deacon
Candace Johnson, M.Div.	Dir. of Family Ministries
Ken, Lisa, Lindsey, and Dani Nicholas	Advent Wreath Liturgists
Elise Thomason	Soloist
Maya Keiser	Pianist and Vocals
<i>String Quartet by Amati Chamber Music:</i>	
Lisa Morrison	Violin
Adelaide Federici	Violin
Robin Massie	Viola
Sarah Paul	Cello

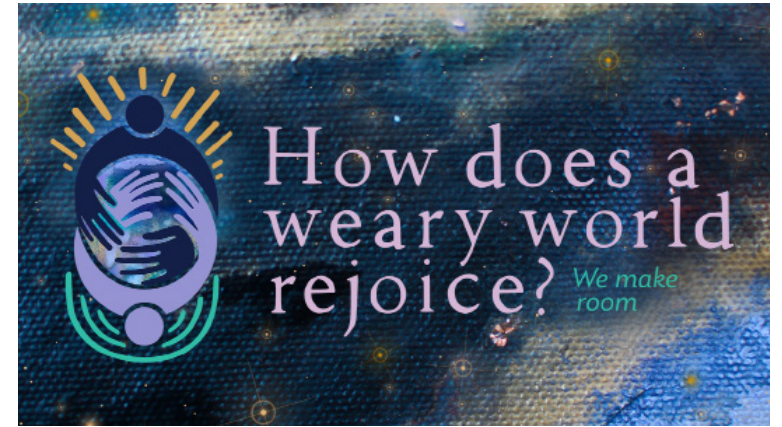
Liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Mailing Address

PO Box 720139 • Sandy Springs, GA 30358

Street Address

86 Mt. Vernon Highway • Sandy Springs, GA 30328
404.255.1181 | ssumc.org



December 24, 2023 | 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Luke’s Gospel tells us that when Mary gives birth to Jesus, she lays him in a manger, for there was no place for them in the guest room. Christ is born in a crowded, unlikely place. And yet, God makes a place here anyway. God draws the circle wider as shepherds and unexpected guests arrive. This Christmas, let us also make room—for strangers and neighbors alike. For this is good news of great joy for all people.



SANDY SPRINGS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Visit us online at ssumc.org
phone: 404.255.1181 • fax: 404.255.0283

GATHERING

The flowers on the altar are given by Kelley Dopson to the glory of God and in honor of the children in the Nativity Play and the adults who guide them.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

There is room for you here.

If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.

If you're new to this place,
or have been here before.

Come in, come in. There is room for you here.

The angels are singing,

"Be not afraid."

The angels are singing,

"Good news and great joy!"

So come in, come in!

There is room for us here.

For Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

*OPENING HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

–United Methodist Hymnal (UMH)

#234, vs. 1, 2, 3, 6

LISTENING

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High" –UMH #238

*SCRIPTURE

Listen for the word of God:

Our Ears are Open!

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-20

This is the Word of God for the People of God:

Thanks be to God!

REFLECTION

RESPONDING

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen. (Apostles Creed, UMH #881)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ways To Give:

- Offering Plates: Make a check out to the church or prepare your cash offering.
- Online: Give securely at ssumc.org/give, or by scanning the QR code.
- Text to Give: Text ssumcgive to 73256.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

Gesu Bambino

HOLY COMMUNION

Spoken responses on pg. 13 of UMH.

Music During Communion:

O Holy Night Maya Keiser, vocals

Words by Placide Cappeau

Translated to English as *O Holy Night* by

John Sullivan Dwight

Music by Adolphe-Charles Adam (1803-1856)

CANDLE LIGHTING

Music during Candle Lighting:

Silent Night – UMH #239 vs. 1-3, 1 (see insert)

DEPARTING TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

*CLOSING HYMN

"Joy To The World" –UMH #246 (see insert)

POSTLUDE