

A night sky with a crescent moon, stars, and a pine tree branch with purple ornaments.

*The Longest Night Service*

The Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ  
3010 De Soto Boulevard, Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
305.448.7421 ~ [www.gablesucc.org](http://www.gablesucc.org)

## THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 21, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ  
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### GATHERING MUSIC

Dr. Greg Taylor, Parish Musician

### READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Rev. Megan Smith, Pastor

*Luke 2:1-14*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of 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. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

### CALL TO COMMUNITY

*Grown Up Christmas List*  
Charmyn Kirton, vocalist

### OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner, Pastor

### QUIET PRAYER

### RESPONSIVE PRAYER

The Rev. Aaron Lauer, Pastor and The Rev. Megan Smith, Pastor

**OPENING CAROL**

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

Charmyn Kiron, vocalist

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 all, great news of joy we bring.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow.  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

**READINGS**

*John 1:1-5*

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

*The Cloud of Despair*

Lisa LeSeuer, Minister for Staff and Congregational Care

*Not Celebrate?*

The Rev. Megan Smith

Ann Weems

**THE GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Who Would Imagine a King?*

Charmyn Kirton, vocalist

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

The Rev. Aaron Lauer

**EVENING PRAYER**

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

**CAROL**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

Charmyn Kirton, vocalist

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.

Silent night, holy night, child of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from your holy face  
bring the dawn of redeeming grace;  
Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ at your birth

**BENEDICTION**

Lisa LeSueur

**POSTLUDE**

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

ONLINE AND OUTDOOR OPTIONS

*Spanish Language Service 2:00 p.m. Online*

We warmly welcome you to join us for a Christmas celebration. This includes spectacular music, traditional Christmas classics, a family photo, a candle lighting experience, and a message from Pastor Yoli Izquierdo Yglesias.

*German Language Service 3:00 p.m. Online*

Join German pastors and congregations from across Florida for this special service.

*Family Service 5:30 p.m. Online*

Come and hear the story of angels, innkeepers, shepherds, wise ones and stars that light up the sky. Come and receive the birth of Jesus into your heart, during our Family Christmas Eve service. This 30-minute worship service is especially designed for young families.

*Outdoor Service 6:30 p.m. In Person*

The glow of luminaries awaits you as we gather for this informal, outdoor service with joyous trumpets and song, the telling of the nativity story, and traditional Christmas carols, ending with lighted candles raised high as we sing together "Silent Night." Please bring your own lawn chair and masks. Candles and packaged Christmas cookies will be provided. If you wish to remain in your car, please park on the Green and tune into the service on your car radio at 87.9 FM.

*Candlelight Service 8:00 p.m. Online*

An elegant and meaningful service with the beautiful music, powerful words, and thoughtful prayers of this holy night. We encourage viewers to light candles in their homes along with us as we close with the traditional singing of "Silent Night" in candlelight.