
Vale United Methodist Church



“Lessons and Carols”

December 24, 2023

11528 Vale Road • Oakton, Virginia 22124

www.ValeChurch.org

Virtual Worship at 8:30 a.m.

In Person Worship at 10:00 a.m.

[Facebook.com/groups/valechurch](https://www.facebook.com/groups/valechurch)



United in faith, we seek to...

Align our lives with the way of Jesus Christ.

Invite others to journey with us.

Move beyond our walls to create a more just and loving world.

“Lessons and Carols”

GATHERING

We gather as the people of God to be formed by God's grace.

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills;

Many: **All the nations shall stream to it.**

One: Many peoples shall come and say,

Many: **“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”**

One: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Many: **He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;**

One: They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

Many: **Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

One: O house of Jacob, come,

Many: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

***Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

UMH 224

***Hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

UMH 230

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

We hear God’s word proclaimed. We act in response.

First Reading

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits young Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn “The First Noel”

UMH 245, v 1&2

Second Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Jesus is born into the world

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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 in the guest room.

Hymn “What Child Is This?”

UMH 219 v 1&2

Children’s Moment

After the Children’s Moment, children will be dismissed to return to their families.

Third Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Shepherds go to see the holy child

Now in that same 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 he favors!”

When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

UMH 211 v. 1&2

Fourth Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

Wise Men follow a star to find the King of Kings

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Hymn “We Three Kings”

UMH 254 v.1-3

Fifth Reading

John 1:1-14

John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH 234

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One: For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.

Many: **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting hope.**

One: For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.

Many: **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace.**

One: For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.

Many: **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting joy.**

One: For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.

Many: **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**

Call for Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Many: God of incarnation, your angel host announces that peace has been born among us, embodied in fragile flesh. With confidence in the power of that miracle, we bring before you our prayers for the church and the world.

One: In this prayerful, present moment we ask you, Christ Jesus, the Greatest Gift of All, to help us savor this moment of celebration of Christmas. Help us recognize and create moments of sweet presence rather than filling the voids with the things that do not last. Help us to stop, notice what we are experiencing, and accept it with open hearts and minds. In doing this, we allow you to meet us in the right here, right now, right where we are. Amen.

Many: By your grace, transform our prayers from words to deeds, that we may live as a holy people in the dawn of your peace, redeemed from all that divides us. Amen.

The 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.

God's Tithes and Our Offerings

*Doxology

UMH 219

"What Child Is This"

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.*

*Blessing of the Offerings

SENDING FORTH

Transformed by God's presence, we go into the world to serve.

*Hymn "He is Born"

UMH 228

*Hymn "Joy to the World"

UMH 246

* Blessing and Charge

* Postlude

**Please stand in spirit or in posture.*

Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (In-Person)

9:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (In-Person)

9:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (Streamed)

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

New Year's Eve, December 31, 2023

“Pajamas and Stories”

Dorothy Arbiter

**The church office will be closed from Dec 22
until Jan 2, 2024**

UMH - *United Methodist Hymnal* (Blue)

TFWS - *The Faith We Sing* (Black)

W&S - *Worship and Song* (Green)

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Our Advent worship series comes from Worship Design Studio.

Vale Mission and Ministry Opportunities

"Not a Spectator Sport"

Dec 24, 2023

WELCOME FRIENDS! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Whether you are new to the area or a long-time resident, we warmly welcome you to our community of faith at Vale Church!

We look forward to meeting you in person—and hope to see you with us again soon!



Vale UMC is proud to be recognized as a Safe Haven congregation. If you suspect signs of human trafficking, please call 888.373.7888 or text 233733.

Enjoy today's message? – Services can also be found on YouTube and Facebook by searching for “Vale United Methodist Church”. If you would like a DVD, please let us know.

Church updates – Did you know Vale sends out via email a weekly *Shout* and a monthly *Voice* with church updates? If you are **not** receiving our emails and would like to, please let the Vale office know.

Do you want to support Vale's ministries? Did you know that you can give to Vale online? We use the respected vendor Push Pay. You don't have to set up an account and you can designate your offering for a particular mission, program or for the general church funding. Go to <http://pushpay.com/g/valechurch> and see how easy it is. The information is confidential and secure.

If you have any questions or run into any difficulty using Push Pay, please contact our Financial Secretary, Bill Barnhart, at FinSec@ValeChurch.org





Tree Sales - Tree sales are over! A big thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, bought a tree, and spread the word! We will have a final report soon.

Holiday Worship Services:

Sun, Dec 24

Christmas Eve

10:00 am Lessons and Carols (In-Person)

7:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (In-Person)

9:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (In-Person &
Streamed)

Sun, Dec 31

New Year's Eve

10:00 am Pajamas and Stories (In-Person)

Holiday Office Hours - The Vale office will be closed from Dec 23 through Jan 2. It will reopen on Wednesday, Jan 3.

Year End Staff Recognition - It is a tradition at Vale UMC to recognize each of our staff at year end with a monetary gift. This gift is our way of saying "THANK YOU" for their efforts in supporting our Vale community through their gifts and graces. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this fund as our staff have all gone above and beyond in keeping the light of Christ alive at Vale. Contributions may be made via Push Pay or via check. If paying by check please write Staff Year End Gift in the memo section of your check and place it in one of the collection plates or the box on the welcome table. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Bette Rutherford, Staff Parish Chair, at 703-620-2448

Hypothermia Shelter - Vale is once again providing meals for the Hypothermia Shelter. We need a few more volunteers to cook and serve meals at Christ Lutheran Church on January 5 and 6. Please sign up to help out on Vale's SignUp page. Contact Vicky Alonzo at icandoit030480@yahoo.com or the office at office@valechurch.org.

RISE Against Hunger 2024 – Vale will be hosting our meal packing event for RISE Against Hunger on Sunday, February 4! This year we are aiming to pack 75,000 meals, and we will be packing our one millionth meal this year, so come help us reach this amazing milestone! Please sign up to help out at bit.ly/RAH2024



Furniture Donations – A family of 3 adults and 2 school age boys from Venezuela is in need of furniture. All they have is a mattress on the floor and a Christmas tree in a small apartment. If you have furniture that you could donate, please contact Mike Martin at mike.vumc@yahoo.com

Save the Date – Starting in 2024, we will be have special events at Vale on the third weekend of each month. Our first event will be a Square Dance on Saturday, January 20, from 7 to 9 pm. Punch and cookies will be served. Flannel attire is encouraged!



Chancel Choir – WE WANT YOU - to join the Choir at Vale!! Everyone is welcome, and anyone can learn to sing. If you've ever had any interest in singing with a very friendly and loving group of people, now's your chance! Chancel Choir (ages 14-100) rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Come and sing with us! Questions? Contact Jan Smith at music@valechurch.org.

2023 VALE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Tom Feeney, Chair • Bob Lacy, Vice Chair • Susan Leigh, Secretary
Wayne Applewhite, Lay Leader • Bill Rigger, Finance
Bill Barnhart, Financial Secretary • Stan Ellis, Treasurer
Bette Rutherford, SPRC • Eric Koefoot, Trustees Chair
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Linda Chrosniak, Outreach Ministry
Dorothy Arbiter, Lay Member of Annual Conference
Karen Leniart, United Methodist Women, President

VALE CHURCH STAFF

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Jan Smith, Music Director
703-620-2594 / Music@ValeChurch.org

Norm Dietz, Accompanist/Organist

Vicky Alonzo, Nursery Caregiver
Olesya Ellis, Nursery Caregiver

Edilman Robles, Custodian