



The ABCs of Christmas: Birthday Party for Jesus Worship
The Will to Dream: We Bring the Promise of Jesus!

Prelude

Jennifer Leslie, Piano

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

A is for an angel, Gabriel, who began the story with a greeting:

“Good evening! You’re beautiful with God’s beauty, beautiful inside and out! God be with you!” Luke 1.28, *The Message paraphrase*

B is for Bethlehem, where our story takes place. People traveled from far and wide to arrive in the city; it was a very busy place.

C is for a census (that’s a counting of all the people) the reason so many people filled the city of Bethlehem.

D is for the donkey that carried a family on their long journey to Bethlehem.

E is for exhausted; how we sometimes feel - tired from traveling and other things.

F is for family: Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem, and for all the people in our families today.

Christmas Carol

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

G is for the Good News to be shared with everyone! This is what was said:

H is for herds, all the animals that were present in the stable, and the flocks of sheep in the field with the shepherds when they heard the good news.

I is for our imaginations, as we think about this story!

Christmas Carol

Joy to the World (verse 1)

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart, prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

J is for the joy and love that a new baby, and this special night can bring.

K is for kindness, shown by the innkeeper that night, allowing a tired family to stay in the stable when there was no room in the inn.

L is for the love we share with one another at Christmas and all through the year.

L is also for **Lighting the Christ Candle**

M is for the manger, it is usually used to hold food for animals, but this time it held the baby because he had no crib.

Christmas Carol

The First Noel (verse 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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!*

N is for Noel, another word for Christmas. It means new birth, that's what happened in our story, and it happens every year.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20 (NLT)

Message

We Bring the Promise of Jesus!

Pastor Karen Evenson

O is for offering, there were many gifts for the baby; even those we share today!

Christmas Carol

O, Come All Ye Faithful

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

Sharing Our Gifts (bring forward your offering and other gifts in honor of Jesus' birth)

Prayer of Blessing

P is for prayer and praise and pondering, all different ways people reacted to the amazing thing that happened. We pray and praise and ponder together:

Q is for quiet, the deep peace that Christmas brings – knowing God is with us.

R is for revelation, God showing us who God is (in a little baby born one night).

S is sharing and the star that shone bright, showing wise ones the way to Jesus.

T is for trust, the confidence we have in God.

U is for unity; for all different people brought together to celebrate God's love!

V is for the vulnerable, like a little child needs to be cared for, protected.

W is for wonder– our amazement at the beauty of how much God loves us.

X is for Xmas, the x is the symbol for Christ – it's the first letter of the Greek word.

Christmas Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*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.*

Y is for You! God's love can be born in the world through you.

Z is for zeal, the excited way we share the Good News and God's love, tonight!

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Sharing our Lights

Christmas Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

*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.*

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Jennifer Leslie, Piano

The ABC's of Christmas was written by Rev. Karen Evenson in 1999.

Please help yourself to cake and treats following the service.

Happy Birthday, to you. Happy Birthday, to you.

Happy Birthday, dear Jesus. Happy Birthday to you!

December 24, 2025
5:00pm A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
"Embodied Promise"
Luke 2:1-20 (NRSVUE)
with the United Methodist Church of Anoka Chancel Choir

December 28, 2025
First Sunday after Christmas
"Generational Praise"
Luke 2:22-40
Message by Adam Breiner, Discipleship Coordinator



WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

UMCA Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm ~ Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Please contact us at: 763-421-2378 | Email: umcanoka@gmail.com

Thursday, December 25, 2025

Merry Christmas!!! (Church Office is closed)

Friday, December 26, 2025

9:00am Women's Breakfast at Bakers Square

Sunday, December 28, 2025

9:30am Worship (In-Person & Online)

9:45am Sunday School

Worship Hospitality Team

Birthday Cake Steward ~ The Schultz Family
Congregational Care Coordinator ~ Sue Buckland
Discipleship Coordinator ~ Adam Breiner
Greeters ~ Phyllis Rither and Schultz Family
Organist ~ Jennifer Leslie
Pastor ~ Rev. Karen Evenson
Snow Removal and Salting ~ Scott Evenson
Scripture Reader ~ Ethan Johnson
Ushers ~ David Blincow, Joyce Buffington, and Mark Worst
Welcome Center ~ Priscilla Speakman
Worship Tech ~ Dallas Berry