



December 14, 2016

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NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

Dr. Trevor Smith The hymn, *Love Came Down at Christmas*, was taken from a poem that was written in 1885 by a woman named Christina Rossetti who lived in Victorian England. She was a well-known poet from a family of artists and writers and poets. She composed this poem which captured her understand of what was happening at Christmas. The stanzas of this poem will form the outline of Sunday's message as we consider the idea that Christmas is truly a love story.

I John 4:9-11 says, ⁹“God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.”

God loved us. God sought to save us from ourselves, from death, from fear. He sought to redeem us as his people. He sought to bring about our wellbeing by giving himself and by being willing to suffer for us. This is what God's love is. So, Christmas is a love story. It's the story of God who loves humankind so much that he's willing to pour himself into human flesh to walk among us to show us love... ultimately to show us love by laying down his life for us.

At Christmas we try to help people see the extravagant, wonderful love of God which is what Christina Rossetti was speaking about in the first stanza of her poem:

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Each of us needs to be loved. We were created that way. You watch a baby who is crying. Then you watch as a mommy or a daddy holds her tight, and she quiets down. She longs to be loved. She doesn't even understand it, and she needs it.

Throughout our lives, we have that same desire to be treasured, to be loved, to have someone who looks at us and values us. Some folks... maybe some of you... never received that when you were little. Here's the thing... your parents may have never told you that. Your spouse may not tell you that enough. Your heart may have been broken by your children. There is One who love s you... who formed you in your mother's womb... who knows all your stuff and still loves you with a steadfast, covenant loyalty kind of love that says, “I will not let you go.” And when you finally begin to get that... when you really trust that that is true, it changes everything.

I hope you will join us for worship at 8:30 or 10:50 on Sunday morning, and I also hope you have been prayerfully considering inviting someone you know to come with you to one of our Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Services on Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 or 5:30. I really believe that you can change a person's life by inviting him or her to experience the true meaning of Christmas with us on Christmas Eve.

I also want to make you aware that on Christmas Day we will not have our 8:30 worship service or Sunday school. Instead we will gather for one worship service at 10:50. I am really looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you. Have a great week.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, December 18

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Children Sing at 10:50 Service
Birthday Party for Jesus at 4:00

Monday, December 19

Women's Alcoholics Anonymous
Group at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

Newsletter Folding Group at 10:00

Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve
Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Sunday, December 25

Christmas Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Monday, December 26

Church Offices Closed
The Learning Center Closed

Sunday, January 1

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Monday, January 2

Church Offices Closed
The Learning Center Closed

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486
(405)843-1835 Fax
www.nicholshillsumc.org

The Learning Center

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(405)842-5325



Ministry Opportunities

Hospitality Greeters

Do you like to smile and talk to people? Are you enthusiastic about our church? If so, please consider becoming one of the Sunday Morning Greeters. If this is an opportunity you would enjoy, please see Alfred Walker for more details.

Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts provide 8-9 dozen cookies. At the close of the 10:50 Service, the host(s) stand by the cookie table in the Narthex and greet people. We have openings for coffee hosts for **December 25 and all of January**. To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Altar Guild

The sacrament of communion is a meaningful and important part of our weekly worship. If you are interested in helping prepare the table, please contact Carol Magness at 405-640-4429 or Janet Jones at 405-627-1566.

Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Carla Hill, Sharon Ives, Janet Jones, Carol Magness, Karen McLain, Marty Smith, Kathy Walker and Jean Warner.

Transportation Ministry

Would you like to bring joy to someone by bringing them to church? If you would like to join our transportation ministry contact the church at 405-842-1486.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 18.

The coffee host is the Care Committee.

The chancel flowers are given by Turner and Cindy Davis in honor of their children and grandchildren for the holiday season.

The mission candle is lit by Kathy Smith in memory of David Clark.

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby,
Bonnie Miller, and Sylvia Miller

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

Autumn Leaves

Bill and Katie Alexander

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris, Dale Jordan,
Frances Lewis, David Mueller,
and Maxine Permenter

Birthday Party for Jesus

Join us on **Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Jesus' birthday! Children, adults, friends, and relatives, are all invited! It will be a wonderful time!

We invite you to bring hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, and desserts. We will enjoy Christmas treats and sing Christmas carols, and children will enjoy fun crafts.

To celebrate Jesus' birthday we invite you to bring a gift for our John Marshall Neighborhood Market to give high school students the necessities they need. Some examples are containers of deodorant, body lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, packages of granola bars, cereal bars, protein bars, bars of soap, and feminine hygiene products.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, have wonderful fellowship, eat yummy treats, help our neighbors in need, and make this Christmas different!



Michael Wylder

Chancel Choir

Last Wednesday night I had to leave choir rehearsal for a few minutes. When I returned to the choir room the choir was singing *Candlelight Carol* by John Rutter. In my absence they took it upon themselves to pull out an anthem that I had overlooked, but that they have grown to love. So in the spirit of Christmas tradition this Sunday the choir will be singing one of their favorites.

Candlelight Carol

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How do you measure the love of a mother
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn
Silent night, holy night, all is calm and all is bright
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born
Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep
Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day

- Michael Wylder



Rev. Matt Patrick

Reflections From The Middle

At the end of this week, I will conclude my third semester of Seminary at St. Paul School of Theology, and I will officially be halfway done with my Masters of Divinity degree. I started at Nichols Hills U.M.C. shortly before I entered Seminary, and I can't believe that it has been a year and a half since I began. I have another three semesters to go before I graduate, and I just want to thank all of you for the ways in which you have supported me while I have been in full-time school. It hasn't always been easy, but this church family has provided me with great opportunities for ministry during my time.

Many of you ask about where I am in my educational journey, so I thought I would give you an update. I look forward to being with you all as we look forward to 2017 together. I think God has great things in store for us!

- Matt



1212 Bedford Drive / Nichols Hills, OK 73116
www.nicholshillsumc.org / 405-842-1486

This Christmas Could Be Different.

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.



Christmas is coming. Deck the halls, peace on earth, and all that stuff. Christmas is: family, love, home, joy, wonderful, cookies, fruitcake, sweaters, crowded malls, this year's i-Phone, 10 office parties, tacky ornaments, long return lines, credit cards, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts.

Take a step back. Breathe. Remember what Christmas is about. Right now, you stand in line to buy things others don't need, while others must stand in line because they can't afford the things they need. Right now you spend hours at Christmas parties you don't want to attend. What if you spent more time with your family... you know, the ones you love.

Let's be honest. More stuff doesn't make us happy. Maybe it is better to give than to receive. What if you bought one less gift this year and gave the money to someone in need? You could give children books so they can learn to read or give a community seeds so they can grow food. The money you spend on postage could feed a third world child for an entire year. There is so much good to do, but only you can do it. This Christmas could be different. Spend less. Give more. Worship Fully. Love all.

Join us for **The Advent Conspiracy** at *Nichols Hills United Methodist Church* on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we prepare to celebrate Christmas in a remarkable new way.

December 18 *Love Came Down at Christmas*

December 24 *The Light Shines in the Darkness*

December 25 *What Child Is This?*



Denise Buthion

Tidbits from The Learning Center

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Our children will demonstrate their musical skills in our Annual Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. We will have all of our children singing, using musical instruments, and celebrating the Christmas season. This will all take place in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us if you like. Refreshments will be served, too.

On another note, we distributed pottery that the children had painted and fired for their families. It is so amazing when you see what they can create. Here are some photos of the creations they have made for Christmas. Enjoy!

-Denise



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

December 24, 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
1212 Bedford Drive / Nichols Hills, OK 73116
405-842-1486 / nicholshillsumc.org

This Christmas Eve, connect to the Christmas story like never before. Journey to **the manger** to celebrate the joy and hope that surrounds the miracle of Christmas. It's a chance to hear beautiful Christmas music and old familiar carols with family, friends, and neighbors. Listen as the cherished Christmas Story of Jesus' birth comes alive through music and scripture in the warm glow of candlelight. We will conclude our service with our cherished tradition of passing the lighted candles as we sing ***Silent Night***. It's a Christmas tradition you will not want to miss!

Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.

Chicago Mission Trip

At Nichols Hills United Methodist Church, we believe that it is important to not only build the kingdom of God within in our own community but to also pour into other communities around the world. We have an opportunity coming up this Spring for you to travel to Chicago to accomplish that mission with us. Over Spring Break, we are planning a mission trip to serve for one week at the United Church of Rogers Park in northern Chicago. While there, we will serve at the church's after school program, prepare a community garden and help with assorted maintenance tasks around the church. If you are interested in coming, please review the following information and plan on joining Matt Patrick for an info meeting on Sunday, December 11th at 12:15 p.m.

When? Saturday, March 11th to Friday, March 17th

Where? We will be staying and serving at the United Methodist Church of Rogers Park in Northeastern Chicago, which at one point in the last decade was the most ethnically diverse zip code in the United States. There is a great need in this neighborhood and we will partner with the local Methodist Church.

Cost? The cost is \$350. A \$150 deposit is due on Wednesday, January 15th, 2017 and final payment is due on Monday, March 6th.

How will we get there? We will be taking a van or two and driving to Chicago. It is about a 12 hour drive.

What will we do? We will serve together to help run the after school kids program, do building maintenance and help get the community garden ready for Spring planting.

What fun things will we do? We will get plenty of time to see Chicago. We will have options to go to the Willis Tower, (formerly the Sears Tower) The Navy Pier, and many other options.

What is our purpose? Our purpose is to share the love of Jesus Christ in meaningful ways that make a Christian difference to the people of the Rogers Park.

Why should I go on this trip? God calls us to minister to "the least of these who are members of my family." This is an opportunity for you to serve God and others and to make a Christian difference in the world and in your own life.

Why am I needed on this trip? We need a diverse group of persons. If you have carpentry skills, you are needed. If you can are willing to learn how to fix things, you are needed. If you are willing to help God's people, you are needed. If you can handle money, you are needed. If you love God and want to share God's love with others, you are needed. We will teach you what you need to know.

How Can I sign up? Read and sign the Mission Policy Agreement and fill out all necessary forms that will be provided upon your request. Be sure to turn your money in on time.

Questions? Contact Rev. Matt Patrick at 918-978-9102 or mpatrick9376@gmail.com

Children's Ministry

I can't believe it's almost Christmas already! I hope everyone is getting to enjoy this beautiful time of the year! Try not to stress too much!

This Sunday, December 18th, we have a great Sunday for you and your family to be a part of! Our kids will be singing at the 10:50 service, so please make sure kids are able to attend Sunday school so we can practice with Michael Wylder one more time!

Later that day on Sunday, December 18th, we will be hosting a Christmas party for Jesus at 4:00 p.m. We want to encourage you to bring your favorite Christmas dessert and a gift that will be donated to the John Marshall Neighborhood Market! There will be crafts for the kids to do during the event!

Thank you so much to everyone at Nichols Hills UMC for making the holidays such a wonderful time!

Have a great week! See you on Sunday!

-Madison



Madison Chilless

Honoring and Remembering Our Loved Ones

Christmas is a time to remember our loved ones who have passed away and to honor our loved ones who have made a difference in our lives. This year, the Altar Guild has purchased our Christmas poinsettias, but we are giving you the opportunity to help in our **Advent Conspiracy** by giving to either the John Marshall Neighborhood Market or to Compassion International. If you would like to honor someone in this way, please **circle** one of the following: I would like to give to the **John Marshall Neighborhood Market** or to **Compassion International**. Please fill out the form and return to the church office.

Person to be remembered: _____

Person to be honored: _____

Your name: _____

Relationship of the person to you: _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Art Auction

A beautiful Nick Berry painting has been generously donated to the church to be auctioned. The benefits from this auction will be used to help support our ministries of the John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Compassion International. The painting is an 8 X 10 oil on canvas with custom frame, depicting a statue of Jesus Christ. It is titled, *HE Walks With Us*. This painting would normally sell for \$1,300.

The painting will be set up in the Narthex for viewing, along with bid sheets on the welcome desk. If you would like to make a bid, fill out the bid sheet and place it in the basket on the welcome desk.



Manage Your Giving Online And Use Our QR Code

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Visit the church website at www.nicholshillsumc.org. Click on the blue *Make A Donation* button. Then follow the online instructions.

We also have a QR Code that you can scan with your cell phone to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Glass at the church 405-842-1486.



John Marshall Neighborhood Market Update

Thank you for all of the wonderful gifts for our John Marshall Neighborhood Market! We thought you might enjoy seeing how our room is set up.



Birthdays

12/20	Mark McLain
12/21	Libby Blankenship
12/22	Jean Ann Robison
12/25	Carol Solomon
12/27	Julie Vaughn
12/29	Lida Elkins
	Taylor McLain
12/30	Abe Malone
12/31	Don Wilson

If your birthday isn't included in our list, please contact the church office (405-842-1486) to be added.

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
1212 Bedford Drive
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73116

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Sunday School Classes - Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. For more information about "The Brew" please contact: Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. Leader: Hank Bradley.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Library* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Archives Room* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. Teacher: John Marshall.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God.

Leaders: Rev. Matt Patrick and Matt Eales.

Second Graders through Fifth Graders: *Meets in the Children's Area*. Join us for a fun time with your friends as we grow closer to God and each other. Ministry Intern: Laley Braucher.

Children's Class: *Meets in the Children's Area*. - Join us for a child-friendly lesson, snacks, and crafts as we learn about the Bible together.

Director of Children's Ministry: Madison Chilless

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor
Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor
Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music
Madison Chilless, Director of Children's Ministry
Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Antone Godding, Organist
Kathy Smith, Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary
Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center
Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian
Alfred Walker, Sunday Host
Randall Blair, Sunday Host
Rachel Spear, Nursery Attendant
Shendra Stevens, Nursery Attendant

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