

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

“We Believe, Even Now”

6:30 - zoom Christmas Music

7:00 - zoom Worship Service / Carols & Lessons

Welcome

PRELUDE “Trans-Siberian Orchestra - Christmas Canon”

“STILLNESS” Val O’Connor

The gentle pull of God is often lost amidst the rush of all the obligations which lay a claim on us. Yet just beyond the frantic pace our restless feet have trod lie deep still pools of quietness—the dwelling place of God. Meet me in the stillness, Lord Be the air I breathe

Meet me in the stillness, Lord Free me to receive O take me to that secret place where lost in wonder and in awe, the moment comes and I rejoice to be and be with God. Meet me in the stillness, Lord Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord Free me to receive

ADVENT LIGHTING Bell-Lombardo Family

Leader: Even when the sun is hidden from sight

ALL: Even when the sun is hidden from sight

Leader: Even when love feels so remote

ALL: Even when love feels so remote

Leader: Even when God is silent

ALL: Even when God is silent

Leader: Even then...

ALL: Even then...

Leader: We believe

ALL: We believe

LEADER: As we together have light the candle of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love let us now light the Christ candle

Leader: Let us pray

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpse of heaven on earth In the faces and the light of those around us. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle— even when our view is obscured by clouds of doubt, You have ignited the flame of hope, love, joy, and peace within us.

ALL: Let us glow with its brilliance from the inside out. Amen.

“I BELIEVE”

CHRISTMAS BIDDING PRAYER Sandy Knapp

Almighty God, who gave us Jesus that he may teach us how to live, and through his spirit provide the power for us to act on his behalf in the world of today. Give us grace to celebrate this season of his birth with the same awe and joy the angels, shepherds and wise men of old experienced. Help us hear the angels sing in our hearts and with our spiritual eyes see the glory of his presence among us. Grant us a special grace that we may enter into his presence with praise and thanksgiving. May the spirit of Jesus be born anew in each of our hearts as we celebrate this time together? Make us aware of the needs of the world, and of each other that you may minister through us.

Hear us now as we pray on behalf of those for whom we are now aware who need your help:

We pray for the sick, hungry, the lonely, and the broken hearted who this day may be kept from your presence by the pain of the moment and the uncertainty of the future.

We pray for the leaders of the political world who strive to find peaceful solutions to the divisions which are rampant among the nations of the world.

We pray for the leaders of the church universal. Pray that the love of Christ may so pervade every one that we may be made one in a spirit so pure that love may reign supreme among us.

We pray for this time together that in our worship god may be present to bless us, and to meet all our needs. That somehow this Christmas we may be aware of the very presence of peace and goodwill toward all human beings proclaimed on that holy night years ago.

And now let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples saying:

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.

CAROL

“O Come all ye Faithful”
(choir)

UMH #234

READING

Luke 2: 1-5 Howard Gay

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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.

CAROL

“Away in the Manger”

UMH #217

(choir)

READING

Luke 2: 6-7 Chris Dalnas

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.

CAROL

“Hark the Herald Angel Sing”

(you tube)

READING

Luke 2: 8-12 Kristin Hayes-Leite

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.”

CAROL

“O Holy Night”

(you tube)

READING

Luke 2: 13-14 Fred Faria

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!”

CAROL

“O Little of Bethlehem”

UMH #230

(choir)

READING

Luke 2: 15-18 Linda Kohler

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.

CAROL

“Mary did you Know”

(You Tube)

READING Sue Dyl

Luke 2: 19-20

But 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, as it had been told them.

OFFERING

Offertory SONG

“Star Child”

Rob Bower & Steve Haunschild

OFFERING PRAYER

SERMON

“Here He Is”

Rev. Effie McAvoy

Lighting Candles

CAROL

“Silent Night”

UMH #239.

(choir)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Silent 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.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star lend they light.
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born.