

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2019 6:00pm

****indicates to stand if able*

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. David F. Hurst

***CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

People: Let earth receive her King!

Pastor: A tiny child is born in a manger.

People: A gift of peace given to troubled souls and dangerous streets.

Pastor: A gift of joy is given to sad hearts and cautious lives.

People: A gift of hope is given to wearied brows and those who have wondered far beyond any knowledge of the Spirit.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God and welcome his gift to us into our lives.

People: Let us open our hearts, and raise our voices in song. Let us rejoice and celebrate the birth our Savior Jesus Christ.

INVOCATION

Pastor: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, come to us this evening. Open wide our hearts and let your love shine into our souls.

People: Fill us with a joy that knows no boundary. Fill us with Light.

Pastor: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, come to us again and again.

Lift us from our routines into the splendor of this awesome and holy night.

People: Carry us away from our daily lives for a moment. Open us to the wonder of your holy birth.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Sherry Seklecki and Judy Cooper)

Leader: This festive Christmas Eve we are gathered as God's people to celebrate what Christ's coming means to the world.

1st Reader: Tonight we relight the four candles of hope, peace, love and joy, as we recall what the good news of Christ's coming means to us. *[relight the four candles]*

Let the Light be among us for Jesus makes all our blessings possible.

2nd Reader: Let us celebrate and light the Christ candle; as we remember Christmases past and what Christ's coming means to us now.

[light the white candle] Let us pray together.....

All: O Lord we thank you, for the gift of Jesus Christ; who makes hope, peace, love and joy possible in this turbulent and confusing world. Encourage us to do our part to bring good will to our families, our churches and our neighborhoods. Through the Word and Carols of this Eve, let your Spirit fill us with strength and compassion to love and care for one another. Amen

****HYMN: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" UMH # 218

(Please stand)

First Lesson: Psalm 98

Carolyn Burrows

Carol: "The First Noel" (VS. 1,2 &3)

UMH # 245

Second Lesson: John 1: 1-4, 9-14

Adrienne Cooper

Carol: "Away in a Manger"

UMH # 217

SPECIAL MUSIC: 'Le Rossignol Des Lilas, Noctune' (Reynaldo Hahn)
(David Nielsen, Oboe / Nadine Shank, Piano)

Third Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38

SueAnn Bess

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (VS 1&4)

UMH # 230

Fourth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-38

Dot Lambert

Carol: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

UMH # 229

OFFERATORY PRESENTATION: 'En Priere, Les Roses d'Isphahan'
(David Nielsen, Oboe / Nadine Shank, Piano)

****RESPONSE: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God the source of all gifts; Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts Praise the Spirit! Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Virginia Ahart

Carol: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

UMH # 234

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

Art Cooper

******Carol:** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

UMH # 238

(Please stand)

SERMONETTE AND PRAYER

******Carol:** "Silent Night, Holy Night"

(Words found on back of your Bulletin)

(Please circle the sanctuary for candle lighting as you sing.)

PRESENTATION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Joe DeGrande

CAROL: "Joy to the World"

(Words found on back of your Bulletin)

GO FORTH IN PEACE!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

"SILENT NIGHT"

- 1) **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.**
- 2) **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!**
- 3) **Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy hold face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**
- 4) **Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

- 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.**
- 2) **Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the wounding joy!**
- 3) **No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessing flow far as the curse is found; far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4) **He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove; the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**