



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24, 2025

** (Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude

"Star Medley"	Carol Stewart, piano solo
"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"	Erika Stone
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"	Mary Ann Spahr, harp
"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"	Mary Ann Spahr, harp
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"	Jason Mahan
"He Is Born"	Ruth Gorman, flute
"The Holly and the Ivy"	Handbell Choir
"Noel"	Handbell Choir
"Gloria" (Words from "Angels We Have Heard On High")	Teri Gray

Introit "Sing We Now of Christmas" Chancel Choir

Welcome

Liturgy for Lighting the Candles including the Christ Candle
 Pastor: Tonight, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah: *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:6-7).*

All: We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.

Pastor: We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.

Special Music "All Is Well" Suzanne Bandy, vocal solo

**Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice, for God is with us – Emmanuel.

People: In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

Leader: Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

People: God is truly with us. We are not alone.

All: Thanks be to God!

**Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH#234 (v.1-4,6)

Special Music "Silent Night" Handbell Choir

Opening Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

The True Light of Life Has Come John 1:1-2, 4-5

All: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel.

The Coming of Jesus Is Announced to Mary and Joseph
 Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

Special Music "Be Born In Me" Michaela Skaggs, vocal solo

The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-5

Response Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH #230 (v.1)

Special Music "Mary Did You Know" Pam Colbrunn, vocal solo

Jesus is Born Luke 2:6-7

Response Hymn "Away in a Manger" UMH #217 (v.1)

Special Music "O Holy Night" Jason Mahan

Jesus' Birth Announced to the Shepherds Luke 2:9-14

Response Hymn "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" UMH#218 (v.1)

Special Music "Born 'Neath a Star"
 Suzanne Bandy, Pam Colbrunn, Glen Shaw, vocal trio

Response Hymn "The First Noel" UMH#245 (v.1)

The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus Luke 2:15-18

The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus Matthew 2:1-11

Response Hymn "The First Noel" UMH #245 (v.3,5)

Ministry of Music "Christmas Proclamation" Chancel Choir

We Offer Our Gifts to God "Away In a Manger/Pastoral Symphony"
 Dave Webber, trombone; Carol Stewart, organ

**Offertory Response Hymn "What Child Is This" UMH#219 (v.3)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

ALL: Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light. We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises. We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ. Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us. Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming. Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives. Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.

Pastor: The true light that enlightens all has come into the world. That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out. This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven us.

All: Thanks be to God!

**Candle Lighting

"Silent Night"

UMH#239

**Benediction

Postlude

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Carol Stewart



Altar Flowers are given by Fred & Cheryl Whitican in memory of their parents, Paula F. & Edward J. Theroux, and Elaine I. & Kenneth L. Whitican.



Please place your candles in the baskets on the table in the narthex on your way out.

(The Christmas Offering will support our new partnership with the Mongolian Mission Initiative of the UMC and our local Benevolence Fund.)



Rev. Jeff Bandy

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24, 2025

Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Edward Stidham, Rick Smith, Gerald Mahan
Greeters	Laura Roby, Linda Baxter
Readers	Suzanne Bandy, Becky Cultice, Steve Mackey
Organist	Carol Stewart
Hand Bell Director	Jim McPeck
Director of Music	Teri Gray



***Candlelight Carol**

"Silent Night"

UMH#239

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 the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

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!



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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY:



Janet Adkins & Family in memory of Gale Adkins & other loved ones
Gary & Chris Allen in honor of Corey Allen & Family and Diana Burdick & Family, and in memory of Bill & Doris Allen and Steve & Marion Matyi
Carolyn Bailey in memory of John Bailey
Jeff & Suzanne Bandy in honor of George & Sandra Witenko, and in memory of Phil & Edith Lynn Everett, and James Bandy
Sue Ann Beam in loving memory of Family & Friends
Mike & Sharon Boothe in memory of their parents and son Matt
Stephanie Branch in honor of The Congregation of Old Town UMC
Rand & Marcia Brannen in honor of Ryan McGuiness, USMC and in memory of John & Betty Jane Brannen and John & Thelma Reuber
Dr. Richard & Tammy Byers in honor of the church
Dr. Paul Dillaplain & Elaine Hughes in memory their parents
Teresa Gray in memory of her parents and her cousin, Cathy Hill
John & Elaine Grayson in memory of their parents
Jeff & Cyndi Heller in memory of John & Marge Brown, Harold & Dorothy Simison, and Richard Heller
Steve Houser and in memory of L. Joan Houser and Richard E. Houser
Bob & Donna McColaugh in memory of Robert & Marjean McColaugh and Dean & Ruth LeFevre
Chad & Karen Mossing in honor of Family and Friends
Mike & Betsy Murray in honor of their children and grandchildren and in memory of their parents
Alice Osman in memory of Harry Osman
Phil & Lucy Parsons in honor of their children & grandchildren and in memory of their parents & grandparents
Dessa Retherford in memory of Clara Little and Harold Retherford
Mary Russell, Bob & Kathe Byrne in memory of Larry Russell
Diana Russo and John Russo, Jr. in memory of John Russo, Sr., and Marguerite & Jack Newhouse
Rick & Joyce Smith in honor of children and grandchildren and in memory of Robert & Mary Whittington and Carlton & Dorothy Smith
Luke & Billie Snell in memory of Rev. William & Rena Williams and Murray & Pauline Snell
Sally Wallace in honor of Matt & Becky Greene and family, Josh & Kristi Wallace and family, and in memory of Jane & Wendell McCoy

You may pick up your Poinsettias after the service tonight.



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