

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion 2022 ~ 11:00 PM

Preservice Music

Centering Words

Walk no longer in darkness, for the light of the world has come.

Welcome and Passing of the Friendship Folders

Prelude *Toccata on "O Come, All Ye Faithful"* Wade/Mahnke

◆Call to Worship

Sing, choirs of angels. **Sing in exaltation.**

Let the shepherds in the fields rejoice. **Let the stars in the sky worship the newborn king.**

For heaven has come down to earth. **Salvation has come to our homes this day.**

Sing, choirs of angels. **Sing in exaltation.**

◆Carols

There's a Song in the Air no. 249

**There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky! There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing no. 240

**Hark! The herald-angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice no. 224

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: News, News! Jesus Christ is born today!

Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Opening Prayer

God of love, choirs of angels sang to your glory on the night of Jesus's birth. Open our mouths to sing your praise, that we might join the heavenly chorus. As the shepherds left their sheep in the fields may we leave our cares behind, that we too may find the hope of our salvation in the Christ child. On this most holy of nights, may our worship befit the Prince of Peace, who came to show us the depths of your love. **Amen.**

◆Carol *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* no. 218

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:**

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King."

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Prayer of Confession

Source of joy, you are the author of everlasting life. Touch us with the wonder of that holy night when your Son came into the world. For we yearn to leave the shadows behind to walk in darkness no more. We long to behold your light shining in our lives, as it shined in the stars above on the night love came down at Christmas. Guide our steps to the manger, and make us instruments of your justice and peace, that the gift of your salvation may reside in every corner of the globe. We ask this in the name of our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Silent Prayer and Words of Grace

Like the people of old, we, who walked in darkness, have seen a great light. We, who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on us light has shined. Live in this light and you will live indeed.

Signs of Peace and Unity in Christ

Glory to God in the highest! Let earth receive her king. Let us share signs of peace, as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace on this holy night.

Lighting of the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle

Advent hope moves us;

Advent love leads us;

Advent joy stirs us;

Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts.

He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ, our hope is fulfilled;

our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed. We rejoice, a Savior is born.

Sung Response: *I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light*

no. 206, vs. 1-3

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God sent the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 (CEB)

Music *See Amid the Winter's Snow* Arr. Richard Kingsmore
Vocal Ensemble

Christmas Prayer for Those in Need

Let us remember those for whom life is hard this Christmas— the homeless, the hungry, the poor, those in ill health, those who mourn, those that are away from their families, those in the midst of war, and those who do not know the love of Christ. Offer silent prayers for them throughout the service.

Invitation to the Offering

What can we offer to God in return for the gift of Christ Jesus? We can offer our love, our joy, our hope, our peace.

We can offer our commitment to share these gifts with the ones Jesus came to serve and to save.

(Our loose plate offering goes out to help those in need. One half of the offering will go to Act In Faith and the second half will go to Rise Against Hunger. Thank you for your generous gifts.)

Offering *Still, Still, Still* arr. Norman Luboff
Vocal Ensemble

◆Gospel Luke 2:1-20 (CEB)

◆Response to the Word

Once we walked in darkness. **But now we dwell in everlasting light.**

For the Christ child is with us. **Our salvation is at hand.**

He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Leave the darkness behind. **Our light has come.**

◆Message *Do Not Be Afraid?*

The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to our Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Mother and Father of all life, from the beginning of time your Spirit breathed light over darkness.

You scattered stars in the heavens and raised up the mountains. You poured out great rivers and blessed the earth with life.

You made women and men in your image, and loved us in our weakness, promising to stay with us wherever we go.

In the winter of our longing, you came to the prophet Mary offering your Spirit to make creation whole. You gave her a child,

Jesus, your beloved Son to turn the broken world around. Jesus stayed with us, healing the sick and feeding the hungry

unbinding prisoners and raising the dead. He ate with strangers, showed mercy to sinners, and taught us to follow him in love

without fear. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had

given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his friends and said - "Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and

said - "Drink of this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of

sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." Therefore, Creator God, of all the things that are yours we offer

you these, which are yours especially. We offer them gladly, as he told us, remembering his death and resurrection,

his birth in Bethlehem, and rest in the manger, his welcome to shepherds and strangers as we praise and bless you:

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you Lord our God.

Now pour out your spirit on this bread and wine to make them the body and blood of Christ for your waiting people.

Come among us and abide with us that we may be the body of Christ for the world you love. Shine upon us tonight as you

shone upon the faithful Mary as you shine upon your people in the darkest times and places that lit by your love we may raise

our voices with saints and angels in the heavenly song: *(Angels We Have Heard On High-refrain only)*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

God our Creator, we thank you for giving us life and making us your daughters and sons. We give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ who taught us how to live and made eternal life possible for us. We give thanks to the gift of the Holy Spirit who sustains and guides us. Help us to go forth and shine light in the darkness. Guide us as we seek to bring peace to our troubled world. Give us the courage to proclaim hope in the midst of despair. Give us your blessing this night and always as we proclaim that a child has been born to us, who is Love for the nations and Light for the world. Amen.

Passing of the Light

Receive the candlelight from your neighbor's by tilting your unlit candle to receive the flame from their upright and lit candle.

◆ Carol Silent Night, Holy Night! no. 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!

(Raise Candles on Third Verse)

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.

◆ The Ringing In Of Christmas

◆ Carol Joy to the World no. 246

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.

Postlude Angels from the Realms of Glory arr. Ellson

Return to your homes glorifying God. Reenter your lives rejoicing in God's grace.
Go to tell the world all you have heard and seen.

Please extinguish your candle as the lights come on and place your candle back in the box marked "unused candles".

◆ Please stand as you are able.
Bold text indicates congregational response.

The flowers on the Lord's Table are given to the glory of God and in honor of their daughter, Catherine Grace Rounsley-Maxwell's, birthday by Rev. Molly Dee Rounsley and David Maxwell.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Celebrants: Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks,
Rev. Molly Dee Rounsley
Preacher: Rev. Molly Dee Rounsley
Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller
Vocal Ensemble Director: Mike Muzzo
Carillon Choir Director: Dan Rotz

Organist: Steve Campitelli
Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles:
The Raybourn/Kownurko Family
Videographers and Sound Team: TimCase,
Holly Grimm, Todd Grimm, Heidi Krug,
Jake Joslin, David Maxwell, Brad Rush,
Zeke Smith, Cory Smith (leader)



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Welcome to our guests

- Thank you for worshipping with us tonight.
- We invite you to complete the information in the Friendship Folders when they are passed.
- Prayer request cards can be found in the friendship folder. To request prayer for someone, please fill out the card and place it in the offering plate.
- Join us for worship on Christmas Day at 10:00 AM and on New Year's Day at 10:00 AM (Continental breakfast at 9:30 AM). Sunday worship times include an 8:45 AM traditional service and an 11:00 AM contemporary celebration service. Both services are livestreamed at umcwc.org and archived on youtube.
- Join us for Sunday School at 10:00 AM each week.. Classes for ages 2 to Adults.

OUR VISION
Building A Spiritual Home
Where You are Family



OUR MISSION
To be a Christian Community
that invites everyone
to know, love, and serve God.

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