

THE LIGHTING OF OUR CANDLES

As the ushers bring the light into the congregation, please tip the unlit candle to receive the flame from your neighbor to avoid spilled wax. We ask parents to use discretion about allowing young children to hold lit candles.

UNITED WE SING *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

#239 UMH

*OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER,

Holy God, in the midst of all of the Christmas celebrations, we need to praise you and remember the meaning of the season. The good food, the wrapping paper and bows and all the festivities are but a small part. You, who gives us everything we have, even though we turn away from you, bless us with the greatest gift of all; Your Son. Rekindle hope afresh in us as we stand in awe of the Christ Child. Instill in us the ability to bow before you with the trust and innocence of a small child. May the excitement and warmth we feel tonight, remain with us throughout the year. As Jesus taught us, so now we pray,

***THE LORD’S PRAYER,** *in unison*

*BENEDICTION

***UNITED WE SING** *Joy to the World”*

#246 UMH

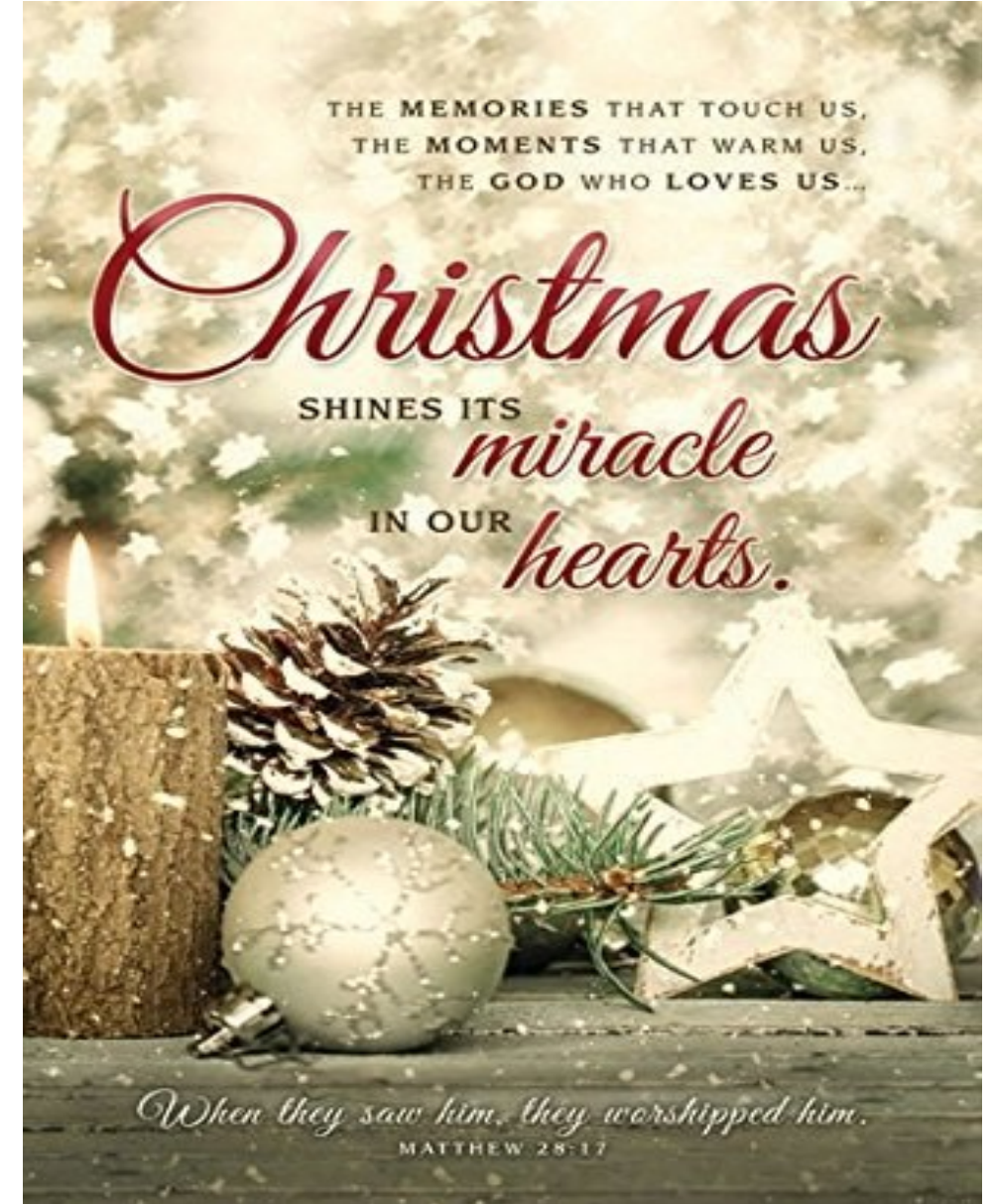
*POSTLUDE

By whatever name you call this tiny baby born in Bethlehem, our prayer is that you follow him this day and every day. May you know the faith and hope given you through the Holy Christ Child. May you be embraced by His love each and every moment of your life. Christmas Blessings to all of you!

Special thanks to those amazing people who helped make this entire evening of celebration possible and filled with love!

Poinsettia given in memory of John Schwartz and Bill DeYager, by Diana Schwartz and Family.

**Please be sure to join us now in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Christmas Eve Dinner !
Yum!**



Order of Worship.....5pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2018

PRELUDE

Welcome to our Christmas Eve Service which is meant to be a special time to welcome a tiny baby, born to bring us peace and joy and eternity. We invite you to use this time in preparing for the service; settle in, find that place of peace, listen to the voice of the baby born into the world to bring us life. Open your hearts this night, to receive the Christmas Message!

UNITED WE SING *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

#234 UMH

GATHERING AND WELCOME

*WHO LOVES JESUS? WE LOVE JESUS!

This time is meant to proclaim our love for a Savior born to us this night and to share it with those around us. *Romans 10:9, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

*OPENING PRAYER, in unison,

Eternal light of God, shine into our hearts tonight...light up our hearts with the radiance of your glory. Help us to let go of the darkness that fills us with fear, and trust in you with all we are, so that we can offer ourselves gladly in your service. Quiet us this holy night, that we may experience this miracle before us. God becomes human, love takes on hate, weakness overcomes power...As we look at the Baby Jesus, may we see this gift being offered to us...a gift of life with you, a gift of life without end, a gift of life that is love and peace and joy...In His name...AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP, *responsively,*

L: May the Lord be with you..

C: And also with you.

L: Tuck the Child in the manger bed. Jesus is born. Let Christmas begin.

C: No cradle, just a manger where cows and sheep are fed. No blanket, just the hay there, and no pillow for his head.

L: No robe, no sleepers, no pajamas, just swaddling clothes to wear. No hospital, no nurses, nor warm home, but love and care were there..

C: Angels for his choir, shepherds for his friends, and kings who came to worship as their long journey ends. Mary and Joseph there, too, to care for that special one.

L: And so we sing Alleluia and join the angel choirs, for Jesus was born in a manger on that first Christmas morn..

C: Tuck the Child in the manger bed. Jesus is born. Let Christmas begin. AMEN!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Come Thou Fount”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

“Amazing Grace”

DR. JASON WIEMAN

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLE, *responsively,*

L: On that first Christmas, when the angels appeared to the shepherds,

C: The Glory of the Lord shone all around them.

L: On that first Christmas, when Christ was born,

C: The Glory of the Lord was revealed to all the world.

L: On this Christmas Eve,

C: The Glory of the Lord is all around us.

L: We see his glory,

C: In the words of Holy Scripture that illuminate our lives.

L: We see his glory,

C: In the happy faces of those we love.

L: We see his glory,

C: In the quiet beauty of this night.

L: And we see his glory,

C: In the gathering together of people to celebrate and sing about his birth, as the Angels did so long ago.

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING, while singing *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”* #218 UMH

*“As each has received a gift use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace “ ~
1 Peter 4:10*

*DOXOLOGY

*OFFERING PRAYER, in unison,

Long ago, wise men offered gifts to your Son, O God, and now we bring our gifts as well. Receive our offerings, Father, in Christ’s name, for the work of Christ in the world, In Jesus name. AMEN.

CHRISTMAS WITH OUR CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Joseph’s Lullaby”*

ANISSA VIS

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR CHILDREN

Using pictures from our FUEL Children’s Program and Reciting the Christmas Gospel