

OUR RESPONSE

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**\*A RESPONSIVE PRAYER, *in unison,***  
Holy God, in the midst of all of the Christmas celebrations, help us to remember to praise you. All that we are about to experience is such a small part. You give us everything we need and have blessed us with the greatest gift of all, Your Son. Rekindle in our hearts the ability to stand in awe of the Christ Child. Help us to be able to bow before you with the trust and innocence of a small child. Help us hold you close in our hearts. In the name of Jesus, we pray...AMEN.

**\*LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES**  
Please tip the unlit candle to receive the flame from your neighbor to avoid spilled wax. Moms and dads, please use discretion when allowing young children to hold lit candles.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                      *“Silent Night”*                      **#239 UMH**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                      *“Joy to the World”*                      **#246 UMH**  
**VERSES 1-2**

POSTLUDE

Please join us now for our Christmas Eve Meal in the Fellowship Hall



*\*Indicates to stand if you are able*

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

**\*PROCESSIONAL**

“O *Come*, O *Come*”

## PRAISE TEAM

## GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

**C: Welcome the Gift! Amen!**

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*“What a Glorious Night”*

## PRAISE TEAM

**Reader 1:** To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...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. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

**Reader 1:** We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us of that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

*(Light all five candles of the Advent wreath)*

*“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”*

**#334 UMH**

## OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

**\*DOXOLOGY**

## #95 UMH

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, we thank you for this season of wonder, of love. for our faith family and for your most precious gift of Jesus. We offer you our lives and these gifts: our hopes and our plans, our work and our play. May love and justice blossom from our gifts. Amen.

*“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”*

#218 UMH

**VERSES 1-2**

## Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

## Micah 5:2-4

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

## #230 UMH

**VERSES 1-2**

## SEGMENTS OF LUKE 1 AND 2

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

## #240 UMH

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

3

“O Holy Night”

LORI OSEI-OFORI