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

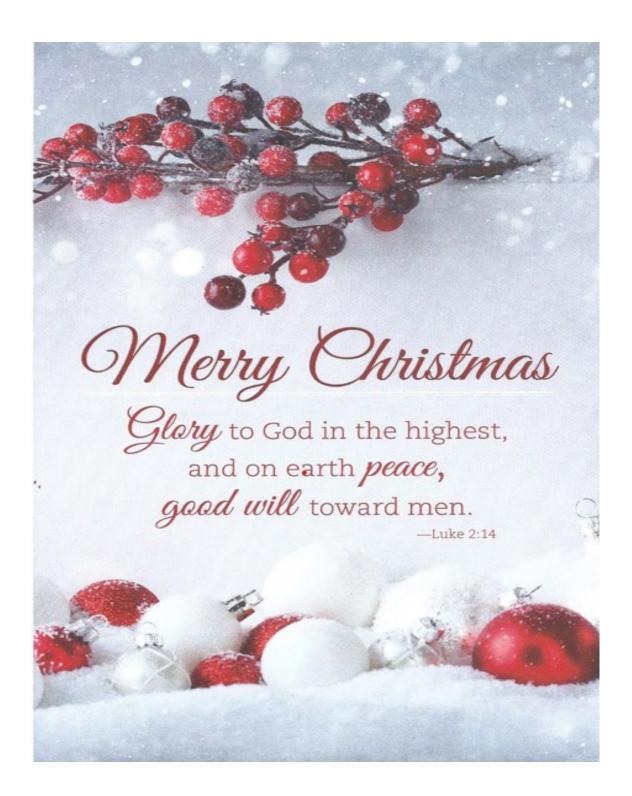
*BENEDICTION

*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





BLESSINGS EVERYONE! ~ LUVERNE UMC CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ DECEMBER 24, 2024 ~ 5PM

*Indicates to stand if you are able

PRELUDE

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.

OUR GATHERING

*PROCESSIONAL

SPECIAL MUSIC "O Come, O Come" PRAISE TEAM

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP, responsively,

L: May the Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: To us, watchful and waiting, a gift has been slipped into our midst.

C: A tiny child, born in a manger,

L: A gift of peace to troubled souls and dangerous streets,

C: A gift of joy to sad hearts and cautious lives,

L: A gift of hope to wearied brows and oppressed peoples.

C: A tiny baby.

L: A gift from God

C: Meant for us.

L: Open your hearts,

C: Raise your voices,

L: Give thanks to the Giver,

C: Welcome the Gift! Amen!

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

"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 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.

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)

UNITED WE SING

"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.

UNITED WE SING

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

#218 UMH VERSES 1-2

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Micah 5:2-4

UNITED WE SING

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#230 UMH VERSES 1-2

SEGMENTS OF LUKE 1 AND 2

UNITED WE SING

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

3

#240 UMH

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

LORI OSEI-OFORI

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Holy Night"