

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2018
5:00 pm
West Bend UMC
Asheboro, NC*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP “Hark The Herald Angels Sing” Handbells

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Hill Family

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #220**
“Angels From The Realms of Glory”

***A CHRISTMAS PRAYER** (In Unison)
Heavenly Father, thank you for this time of celebration tonight and all it represents. Thank you for the goodness you pour out on us year round. Tonight we especially praise you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. May he light our way just like the star lit the way for the wise men and be born anew in our hearts tonight through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A CHRISTMAS VIDEO

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING
2 Corinthians 9:15 “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

OFFERTORY “Joy To the World” Handbells

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER
We thank you God for the indescribable gift of your son. We can never thank you enough for the gift that you bring to us through Jesus. Your gifts of salvation, of hope, of redemption, of peace, of joy and the knowledge and proof of your love for us are gifts we can never repay. So we say thank you as we receive your gift and take your Spirit into our lives. We say thank you as we give these gifts tonight. We give because you gave first to us. Bless these gifts so that your gift of new life will continue to be spread through this community. In Jesus Name, Amen.

***Congregational Hymn #217**

“Away in a Manger”

SCRIPTURE READING
Luke 1:39-45

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Message

Rev. Kari L. Howard
The Spirit Among You
Series: Christmas Spirit

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

{During the Lord’s Supper, the ushers will guide you when it is time to receive the communion elements. When you come forward, you will be given a piece of bread and a cup to partake. Once you receive communion, you may return to your seat or you may kneel or stand at the altar area for a time of personal prayer.}

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE LORD’S PRAYER (In Unison)
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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD
THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

HANDBELL MUSIC (during communion):

"The First Noel"

"Silent Night"

"What Child Is This"

Prayer After Communion

(In Unison)

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for your constant love for us. From before time began your plan was for relationship with us. Jesus, we thank you for making possible the way to the Father. We honor you through this time of communion. Holy Spirit, come into us and lead us to live more like Christ in the days ahead. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***Congregational Song #239**

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Christmas Candle Lighting Celebration

{As we begin to sing, ushers will light the candle of the first person on each row. Those people will then take their candles and light the candle of the person next to them, who will do the same until all the candles are lit. On the final stanza of *Silent Night, Holy Night*, you are invited to hold your candle up high. After the service, you may place your candle in the box as you leave.}

***Benediction**

Worship Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

***Congregation:* On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.**

Worship Leader: For unto us a child is born, a son is given!

***Congregation:* The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us.**

All: And having seen his glory, we live to share his glory forever.

Amen.

***Recessional #246**

"Joy To The World" vs 1

Message Notes:

Mainline: The Holy Spirit will do his work _____
before he does this work _____.

The Holy Spirit in you will cause you to:

A. _____ God's work.

B. Have _____.

C. _____ God's _____.

