

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### December 24, 2019, 5:00 pm

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#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please register your attendance in the pew pads.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Hark The Herald Angels Sing Handbells

**VIDEO** God in a Manger

**MUSICAL SPECIAL** Mary Did You Know Kerri Beth Frazier

**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.*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #220** Angels From The Realms of Glory

#### \*CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader: Tonight we remember and celebrate that God has kept his promises to send us a Savior. He is Emmanuel, God with us.

**People: We remember that God has visited his people. Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph all received God's grace as Jesus came into the world.**

Leader: Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem and could find no place to stay so they found a stable to rest among the animals.

**People: And Jesus was born and was laid in the manger.**

Leader: And the night Jesus was born, the angels couldn't contain their joy. They had to tell the people of earth what God had done!

**People: The shepherds listened to the good news of great joy that was for them and all people.**

Leader: The shepherds heard the angels praise God saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace and goodwill to all."

**People: The shepherds went to see Jesus and saw with their own eyes that God had come to be with us.**

Leader: They went back to their fields that night praising God and telling everyone what they had seen.

**All: We come here to experience the true Christmas Presence, God with us, tonight and always. Amen.**

**MUSICAL SPECIAL** O Holy Night Chuck Welch and Ginny Lewis

#### THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Matthew 2:11 *On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

**OFFERTORY** Joy To The World Handbells

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** (in unison)

God we thank you for giving us the best gift of all, the gift of your Son, our Savior. We can never give enough to thank you properly, nor can we give enough to earn your grace that you have given freely to us. We give these gifts simply to say thank you for loving us. We give these gifts to say please keep working through us to spread your love and grace to our community. Make us like the Wise Men, who when they saw and experienced Jesus, they opened their hearts and gave of their own earthly treasures as an act of worship of the King of Kings in whose name we pray, Amen.

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**VIDEO** Christmas Connection

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #217** Away in a Manger

#### SCRIPTURE READING

**Matthew 2:1-12** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." <sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route

**MESSAGE** Rev. Kari L. Howard

The Journey of the Wise  
Series: Christmas Presence

**MUSICAL SPECIAL** He Shall Reign Forevermore Kerri Beth Frazier

#### 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  
We Three Kings  
Carol of the Bells

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

POSTLUDE

Message Notes:

Mainline: The journey of the wise is to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and then to live out Christmas \_\_\_\_\_.

**Thank you for joining us tonight!**

**You still have time to bring your food donations to CUOC and Table of Grace as well as your donations for the Giving Tree of socks, gloves, & hats. Sunday, December 29, is the deadline.**

