

# SERVICE OF WORSHIP

for the glory of God, the proclamation of the gospel, and the service of humanity

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2017

## A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

### Prelude

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Wreath lighters: Brad and Teresa Ehrhardt

*Almighty God and Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. Tonight as we light these candles, make us a people of His light. Hold us faithful to your Word, that we might bring your life to a waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord.*

### \*GREETING

from 1 Chronicles 16:21-31

Sing to the Lord all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day

DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS,

HIS MARVELOUS WORKS AMONG THE PEOPLES.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

SPLendor AND MAJESTY ARE BEFORE HIM;

STRENGTH AND JOY ARE IN HIS DWELLING PLACE.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength, the glory due his name.

LET THE HEAVENS REJOICE, LET THE EARTH BE GLAD;

LET THEM SAY AMONG THE NATIONS, **“OUR GOD REIGNS!”**

### \*OPENING CAROL:

Hymnal #234

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (vv.1,2,3 & 6)*

### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

FIRST LESSON Luke 1:26-38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.*

\*CAROL *What Child Is This*

Hymnal #219

### OFFERING

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY

*MARY, DID YOU KNOW*

The Ely Family

SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:1-20

*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.*

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

The Words of Christmas: WITH

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Hymnal p. 13

*After the elements have been consecrated, you are invited to come to the altar to receive Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church, nor United Methodist to receive communion, as God welcomes all who would come seeking him.*

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC

*O Holy Night*

Michael Brown

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

John 1:1-5, 9-14

*(The white color signifies the purity and holiness of Christ; the flame is a symbol of Christ himself, who is the Light of the World.)*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, glory as of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

\*SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING *Silent Night*

(lyrics on back page)  
(Matt Koonts, guitar)

*As “Silent Night” is sung, the lights will be dimmed, and a single candle will be lit from the Christ candle. This light will be passed to others around you as we share the light of Christ.*

*Please remember that the **lit candle remains upright**, and **the unlit candle is tipped toward the lit one**. Finally, before leaving your pew after the Benediction, please carefully extinguish your candle.*

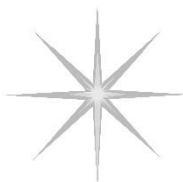
## SILENT NIGHT

① Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace...  
Sleep in heavenly peace!

② Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born...  
Christ the Savior is born!

③ Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth...  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth!

④ Silent night, holy night,  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
"Alleluia" to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born...  
Christ the Savior is born!



\*CHRISTMAS BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

*Merry Christmas Tabernacle U.M.C.!*

