

# ~ Welcome ~

## SHARON CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Eve 7p

December 24, 2018

Prelude "Gesu Bambino"  
*Yon*

Welcome and Announcements

\*Greeting

\*Call To Worship

Leader: Darkness—we who walk in darkness have seen a great light:

**People: A light that is a joy for all the earth,**

Leader: A light that announces new life.

**People: In joy we greet this light.**

**All: In this light we see that our savior has come!**

\*Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 234

\*Opening Prayer

**Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving, we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Nathan and Madeline McLaughlin

Congregational Response "Light the Advent Candle" See Screen

"A Candle Is Burning" (Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger") See Screen

**Reading: The Prophecy of the Messiah**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 p. 638

John 1:1-5 p. 977

Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1) No. 240

**Reading: The Coming of Jesus Is Announced to Mary and Joseph**

Matthew 1:18-25 p. 889

Choral Anthem "Because a Baby Came" with "O Holy Night"

**Reading: The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus**

Luke 2:1-5 p. 945

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs 1) No. 230

**Reading: Jesus is Born**

Luke 2:6-7 p. 945

Hymn: "Away in a Manger" (vs. 1) No. 217

**Reading: Jesus' Birth is Announced to the Shepherds**

Luke 2:9-14 p. 945

Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (vs.1) No. 218

**Reading: The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus**

Luke 2:15-18 p. 945

Hymn: "The First Noel" (vs. 1) No. 245

**Reading: The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus**

Matthew 2:1-11 p. 890

Hymn: "We Three Kings" (vs. 1) No. 254

We Offer Our Gifts to God

Offertory "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"  
*Traditional Polish Carol*

\*Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all Creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Offertory Prayer

Evening Meditation

by: Pastor Jane Piehl

Soloist: "O Holy Night"

Solo by: Millie Frambaugh

Prayer of Confession and Pardon

**All: Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light. We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises. We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ, partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world. Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us. Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming. Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives. Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.**

*Leader: The true light that enlightens all has come into the world.*

*That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out. This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Communion	No. 12
The Great Thanksgiving	
The Lord's Prayer	Screen
Breaking the Bread	
Giving the Bread and Cup	

Prayer after Communion

**We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.**

**We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.**

**We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world and there is a Light for us to follow.**

*The Passing of the Light	
*Hymn: "Silent Night"	No. 239
*Benediction	
*Hymn: Joy to the World	No. 246
Postlude	"Joy Has Dawned" <i>Tornquist</i>

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Jane Piehl	Pastor
Marge Raw	Organist
Millie Frambaugh	Choir Director
Bill Baldwin, Mason Brosch	Greeters
Chloe & Mason Brosch	Acolytes
Mason Haddix, Chloe Brosch, Nancy Vogel, Elaine Mravetz and Dave Piehl	Scripture Readers

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Each candle on the table in the front of the Sanctuary symbolizes a character from the Scripture reading this evening. Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus are the small candles on the burlap fabric. The angels are represented by the yellow candles on the gold fabric, with the Gabriel candle being taller. The Shepherd candles are green on the green fabric, and the king candles are purple on the velvet fabric. As we read their place in the events of the birth of the Christ child, we will light the candles and remember how God was born to save us from sin and death. Let heaven and earth rejoice!

## SHARON CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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