

# ~ Welcome ~

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

December 24, 2023

7:00pm

Prelude "O Holy Night" Mildred Frambaugh

*By: Adolphe Adams*

Welcome Pastor Jane Piehl

\*Call To Worship

*Leader: Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.*

**People: In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.**

*Leader: Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.*

**People: God is truly with us. We are not alone.**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Special Music "Joy to the World" Solo by: Mason Brosch

\*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 Brosch Family

**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.**

"A Candle is Burning" vs. 5 See Screen

**The Coming of Jesus Is Announced to Mary and Joseph**  
Matthew 1:18-25 Dave Piehl

**Jesus is born**  
Luke 2:1-7 Dave Piehl

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1, 2 UMH No. 230

**The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus**  
Luke 2:8-18 Mason Brosch

Anthem "Angels From The Realms of Glory" Choir

**The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus**  
Matthew 2:1-11 Mason Brosch

Hymn "The First Noel" vs. 1,2, 3, 5 UMH No. 245

**We Offer Our Gifts to God**  
Offertory "Happy Birthday, Jesus"  
*Arr. By: Melody Bober*

Offertory Response "What Child Is This?" vs. 3 UMH No. 219

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Meditation Pastor Jane Piehl

Prayer of Confession and Pardon  
**People: 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.*  
**People: Thanks be to God!**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving The Bread And The 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

An Usher will come to the first person in your row. Please tilt your unlit candle to theirs and each person down the row should do the same. Raise your candle on verse 4.

\*Hymn "Silent Night" UMH No. 239

Benediction

\*Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful" vs. 1, 2, 3 UMH No. 234

\*Indicates congregation to stand

\*\*Please pick up a candle as you enter the Sanctuary for this evening's Worship for the candlelight portion of our service together. At the end of the service please return the candle.

\*\*Please join us for refreshments after the service in the Gathering Place and have your picture taken near the tree or on the bench.

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Pastor Jane Piehl  
Millie Frambaugh

Pastor  
Music Director

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Welcome to Sharon Center United Methodist Church!

