

5 p.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021

\* indicates “stand if you are able.” UMH is the blue hymnal. TFWs is the small black book.

PRELUDE

“Calm as the Night”

Carl Bohm

INTROIT

“No Longer Slaves”

Insert

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS

One: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The risen Christ is with us.

All: Praise the Lord!

\*HYMN

“O Holy Night”

Debbie Holland – Soloist

Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

One: Rejoice and sing.

All: A child is born!

One: Sing Songs of praise.

All: For the Prince of Peace is in our midst.

One: Rejoice and sing.

All: Christ is born! Hallelujah. Amen.

One: And together let us pray.

All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, be born in our hearts this night. Shine your light into the darkness of our world, that all the earth might know your glorious presence and that all people might find hope in your love and grace. In your glorious name, we pray. Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION

**Reader One:** This night, this night is a night to remember. A night when we were not forgotten or alone or abandoned. This night. This night is the night when here and there became one, when past and future combined in a breathless present. This is a night when we are home, in ourselves, in this family, in the God who loved us enough to walk beside us.

**Reader Two:** We gather in the night to proclaim the light. We shrug off despair and embrace hope. We set aside conflict and choose peace. We push away despair by claiming joy. We overcome hate by rising into love. Because this night we know, even in the shadows of our doubts, we know that we are loved. That’s what it means to be home.

**Reader One:** We light these candles, hoping to become the light, hoping to radiate light by how we live. We light these candles to create a space called home in this place, in our place, in inner places. We light these candles to declare that unto us a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord.

Welcomed home by angels singing and shepherds kneeling. Welcomed home by those like us who have worshiped for thousands of years. Welcomed home again tonight, right here, right now, in us.

**Reader Two:** It’s time to be home.

Light the Christ Candle and all candles of the wreath.

INSTRUMENTAL DUET

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

arr. Joel Raney

Jeong-Hwa Park – Piano & Chrissy Fong – Flute

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

THE HEBREW READING Isaiah 9:2-7

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

VOCAL TRIO

“The Wondrous Story”

Kim Gill, Tim Gill & Debbie Holland

Insert

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE “My God, My Strength and My Song” Rev. Jane Kim

THE INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (in unison)  
**Kings brought gifts. Angels sang praises. Shepherds told tales. Every gift we have to offer the Christ child is a precious gift, blessed by God. Bring your gifts. Bring your hearts. Bring your lives, in gratitude and celebration of the Christ child whose birth we celebrate this night.**

WEEKLY OFFERING

\*HYMN

“We Three Kings”

UMH #254

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Born Is Emmanuel”

CUMC Adult Choir

Insert

\*DOXOLOGY

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Refrain only

UMH #238

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Beautiful Savior, we are so grateful for your birth so many years ago, and we are so joyful to have your presence in our lives this night. In gratitude, we offer our gifts however humble they might be. Transform our gifts with your glory and grace that our gifts might become grace and love, and light and hope, for a world in need of you. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“The First Noel”

UMH #245

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (During the playing of “Silent Night”)

*(The pastor will take the light from the Christ candle. All will light the candles)*  
Pastor says: **“The Light of Christ be with you.”**  
All say: **“And also with you.”**  
*(You may extinguish your candle after the benediction)*

- UMH #239
- 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.**
  - 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!**
  - Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light; radiant beams from the holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**
  - 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!**

\*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: We are not alone. We have seen a great light. Light has dawned, and the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to us, salvation to all. Now, go forth and shine light in the darkness.

All: **We go and bring peace into our troubled world.**

One: Go to proclaim hope in the midst of despair.

All: **We go with God’s blessings – for a child has been born to us, who is Love for the nations and Light for the world. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us share God’s love and peace with one another.

POSTLUDE *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*  
*Chrissy Fong – Flutist*  
*Fred Gruber*

**PLEASE JOIN CUMC IN-PERSON/ZOOM COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.**

**OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED** **NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS**

**THANKS TO** *Richard and Cheryl Cowan – lay assistants for our Worship Service.*

**COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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December 24, 2021

*Rev. Jane H. Kim*  
Pastor

*Jeong-Hwa Park*  
Minister of Music

*Mrs. Rita Lieberman*  
Secretary

