

Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2022
7:00 PM

PRELUDE *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* June Shuffett

*Choral Introit *O Come to the Manger* Chancel Choir

WELCOME Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath** The Dickinson Family

Leader: Peace looked down and saw war.

People: "I will go there," said Peace.

Leader: Hope looked down and saw darkness.

People: "I will go there," said Hope

Leader: Love looked down and saw hatred.

People: "I will go there," said Love.

Leader: Joy looked down and saw despair.

People: "I will go there," said Joy.

Leader: So the Prince of Peace, the Hope of the World, the King of Love, the Child of Joy came down and crept in beside us.

***LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We light the Christ Candle in celebration of God's most precious gift to us—our Savior Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, peace, hope, love, and joy were made flesh, made real, made tangible in the world.

Let us pray:

Leader: O Holy God,

You come in flesh bringing salvation to all,
Your glory is made know in this newborn child,
this living, blessed hope.

Tonight, we join the choirs of angels in singing Your praise.
Gift of God, beautiful Christ-child, we welcome You!

**People: Let us come and see what God has done.
Come, let us adore Him.**

*HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1-4)* UMH 234

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

OFFERING *Infant Redeemer* Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lessons & Carols

CAROL	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v.1-3)	UMH 240
FIRST LESSON	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Jordan Biscardo
CAROL	O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 1, 2, 4)	UMH 211
SECOND LESSON	Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6	Kathy Henry
CAROL	It Came upon a Midnight Clear (v. 1, 2, & 4)	UMH 218
THIRD LESSON	Luke 1:26-35, 38	Lisa Dickinson
CAROL	O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1 & 4)	UMH 230
FOURTH LESSON	Luke 2:1-7	Sam Patricola
CAROL	Away in Manger (v. 1-3)	UMH 217
FIFTH LESSON	Luke 2:8-16	Pat Hobbs
CAROL	The First Noel (v. 1-2)	UMH 245
HOMILY	<i>Keeping Christmas Well</i>	Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller
CAROL	<i>Welcome to Our World</i> (v. 1-5)	W&S 3067
INVITATION TO THE TABLE		Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Holy God,
we come to celebrate again
the arrival of Love Incarnate
here in our very midst.
Your glorious arrival
is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy,
yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh.
Your light of salvation is bright enough
to illuminate every corner of our lives,
yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt.
Your gift of Love is big enough for the whole world,
yet we still find ourselves resentful
that Your love extends to those
whom we deem to be unworthy.
God, You invite us into the light of the stable
where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered
to celebrate the miracle of Your love.
Give us the strength and courage to join You at the manger. AMEN.**

WORDS OF PARDON

Hear the good news of great joy for all people:
a savior has been born this night for you!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. AMEN.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung Version)

UMH 17

*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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God,
We give You thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given Yourself to us.
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. AMEN.**

TIME OF REFLECTION FOLLOWING COMMUNION

The Oxen (Ralph Vaughan Williams) Kevin Lackie

*GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-5; 14

Dan Dickinson

*HYMN WITH SPREADING OF THE LIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night

*BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* (All verses)

UMH 246

POSTLUDE

What Child Is This?

June Shuffett