

CENTERPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ONLINE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2020 - CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY SERVICE

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION *(silently pray)*

As we gather for worship this holy night, God, there is excitement in the air, a song on our lips, and joy in our hearts. Help us to remember why we celebrate Christmas. May the Word which was made flesh be heard in our worship. May Christ be born again in this world and in the life of each person here. May the love of Christmas fill the church and the peace of Christmas fill our hearts. Amen.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

God of love and light, choirs of angels sang to your glory on the night your Son was born. Loosen our tongues, that we may join the heavenly song. Lead us in the way of the shepherds, leaving our cares behind, as we come joyfully to Bethlehem. Place in our hearts, and the hearts of all people, the peace of the One whose birth we celebrate this holy night, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN # 234 (v. 1-3)

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

United Methodist Hymnal

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten not created; *(Refrain)*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *(Refrain)*

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS WREATH

The Bertossi Family

SPECIAL MUSIC

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings”

Special Music Team

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior, was born upon this day;
To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father, this blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds, brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born, the Son of God by name
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy!

Chorus: O, star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to that perfect light

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain; gold I bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign (*Chorus*)

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Worship Him, God Most High (*Chorus*)

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (*join in prayer*)

O Holy Wisdom, speak to us once more about the special love that came down at Christmas. Let us hear how this love was foretold and the miracle given for all people. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY I

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN # 217 (v. 1-2)

"Away in a Manger"

United Methodist Hymnal

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY II

Luke 2:8-20

Angels Appear to Shepherds

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But

the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN # 238 (v. 1-2)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

United Methodist Hymnal

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Glor-or-or-ia, in excelsis Deo! Glor-or-or-ia, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song? (*Refrain*)

CHRISTMAS STORY

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (join in prayer)

On this holy night, we praise your name, O God. We thank you for the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that are embodied in your Son. As we celebrate the coming of Jesus, we offer you these gifts as an expression of our love and faith. In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“When I Think Upon Christmas”

Hillsong Worship

Special Music Team

When I think upon Christmas, words can't express, how our Father in heaven, has sent us His best
To be born in a manger, the king in the hay, and creation will worship His Name

Chorus: For the joy of the world, He was born, bringing peace to us all, through the gift of the Son
Now the darkest of ages are done, for the Savior of heaven has come

When I think upon Jesus, the King of all days, I can't help but respond, with an offering of praise
Like the wise men and shepherds I'll follow Your light, like the angels I'll lift Your Name high (*Chorus*)

Now I look back in reverence, to that holy night, for the God of the heavens, had us on His mind
Let us sing of His glory, rejoice in His Name, oh Emmanuel with us always,
And forever His kingdom will reign

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(Please share the bread and cup with those present saying the words,
"The Body of Christ broken for you; the Blood of Christ shed for you")*

SHARING OF THE LIGHT

HYMN # 239 (v. 1, 3-4)

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

United Methodist Hymnal

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, 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.

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

CLOSING HYMN # 246 (v. 1-2, 4)

"Joy to the World"

United Methodist Hymnal

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION