

CENTERPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

centerportumc.org

ONLINE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2020 - CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION (silently pray)

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.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

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.

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 Jordan Family

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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 # 230 (v. 1 & 4)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

United Methodist Hymnal

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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 # 240 (v. 1 & 3)

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

United Methodist Hymnal

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

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.

HOMILY

Pastor Roy

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Holy Night"
Kathryn Sloat, Harpist

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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