

**CHRISTMAS EVE 2015  
CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE  
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
4:30 P.M.**

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**ENTRANCE**

**WELCOME**

**READER # 1:.....Isaiah 7:14; 9:6**

*Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**PRAYER**

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

**All: AMEN.**

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**READER # 2:.....Luke 2:6-7**

*"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."*

**NARRATOR:** Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

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**PEOPLE:** Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth, regardless of circumstances, reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, and the promise of God.

**KID'S TIME**.....The Backward King

**SPECIAL MUSIC**....." Let It Be Christmas Everywhere" ...Bob Stephan

**NARRATOR:** On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know . . . He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

**CAROL OF PRAISE**...“Angels We Have Heard on High”...UMH No. 238 vs.1-2

**NARRATOR:** For 2,000 years the story has been told and retold. It is simple yet profound. God the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He is both our Lord and our God. His birth was foretold by the prophets of old.

**READER # 1:**.....Isaiah 40: 3; 11: 1-2

**CAROL OF PRAISE**...“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”...UMH No. 211...VS. 1-2

**NARRATOR:** The news came to a young virgin in the town of Nazareth engaged to a carpenter named Joseph.

**READER # 2:**.....Luke 1:26-38

**NARRATOR:** Mary was at once, surprised, filled with wonder, joy and fear. She would need the Spirit of God to walk with her through the days and months ahead. Mary was frightened and unsure of what lied ahead but she with a full heart obeyed God.

**CAROL OF PROMISE**...“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”...UMH No.215 vs. 1-3

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**NARRATOR:** Across town Joseph hears the new from an Angel that Mary will have a son.

**READER # 3:**.....**Matthew 1: 18-21**

**NARRATOR:** Joseph struggled with the news the Angel brought him but like Mary, he obeyed God and they set out for Jerusalem.

**CAROL OF CELEBRATION**..... **“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**...UMH No.229

**NARRATOR:** Mary and Joseph were planning a quiet birth of their first born in Nazareth. Then they heard the news that they had to travel to Bethlehem, Joseph’s tribal home.

**READER # 1:**.....**Luke 2:1-7**

**Narrator:** The journey was long and hazardous, but they finally arrived in Bethlehem after a nine day journey only to find there was no place for them to have their first child but the a cave behind an Inn.

**CAROL OF PRAISE**.....**“What Child Is This?”**...UMH No.219

**READER # 3:**.....**Luke 2:8-20**

**Narrator:** *This child was no ordinary child. His life would change the course of history. His life would be a light to the Jews and the Greeks. He would perform miracles, raise the dead, die for our sins, and, on the third day, He was raised from the dead. Simeon, speaking through the power of the Holy Spirit, told Mary things she did not know about her son.*

**CAROL OF PRAISE**.....**“Hark! the Harold Angels Sing”**...UMH No. 240

**READER # 2:**.....**Luke 2:25-30**

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**NARRATOR:** Bethlehem and the world would never be the same because there was a new kid in town.

**SPECIAL MUSIC.....“New Kid in Town”...Bob Stephan**

**NARRATOR:.....Galatians 4:4-7**

*4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE.....“Silent Night”...UMH No. 239**

*Thank you for coming to our service tonight and celebrating the coming of the Christ Child. We ask you to please tilt your unlit candle towards the lit candle when lighting your candle. As you exit, please give your candle to an usher and have a most joyful Christmas Day.*