

## Participants in the Service

Ministers.....The Congregation  
Clergy ..... Rev. C. Victor Waters  
Custodian..... Bob Stephan  
Church Office ..... Tina England  
Choir Director ..... Barb Klampe  
Accompanist ..... Marlys Garness  
Liturgist/Narrator ..... Katelyn Madigan  
Videographer..... Ed Herbig  
Sound ..... Eliot Waters  
Valet Volunteer ..... Open  
Usher in Charge ..... Roger Walker  
Nursery Attendant ... Parents, please stay with your children  
December Bulletin Board ..... Barbara Friedl & Tina England

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### RALLY CRY

*Faith by the Lake - and Beyond!*

### VISION STATEMENT

*We are Christ-centered church committed to reaching all people  
with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ;  
encouraging all who respond to become disciples.*

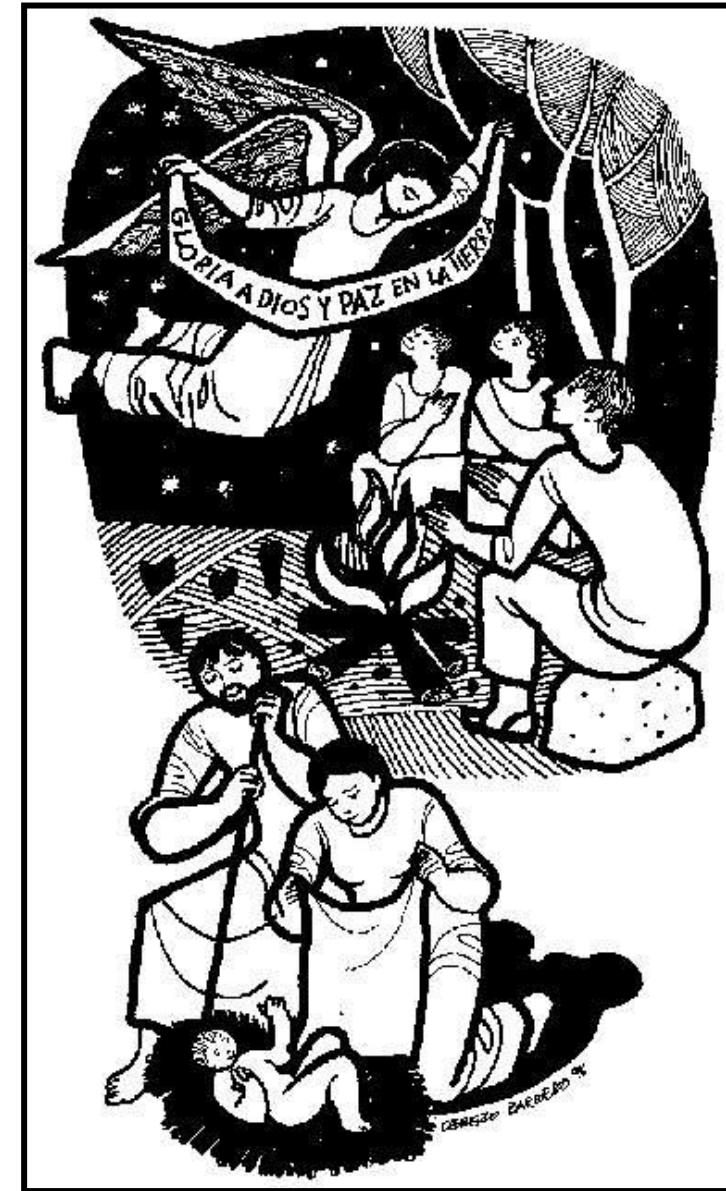
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## Welcome to Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship



Faith United Methodist Church, Waseca, MN

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**December 24, 2012** **4:30 p.m.**

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**WELCOME**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**\*CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**HYMN .....“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” ... UMH No. 236**

**HYMN .....“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”... UMH No. 218**

**THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Leader: The Christ Candle is at the center of our Advent Candles and with it we say, “Welcome, welcome Jesus Christ our king who is born this day.

Today’s reading is taken from the gospel of Luke 2:15-16.

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherders talked it over. “Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child.

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**ALL: Come child of Bethlehem and make your home in our hearts.  
Amen.**

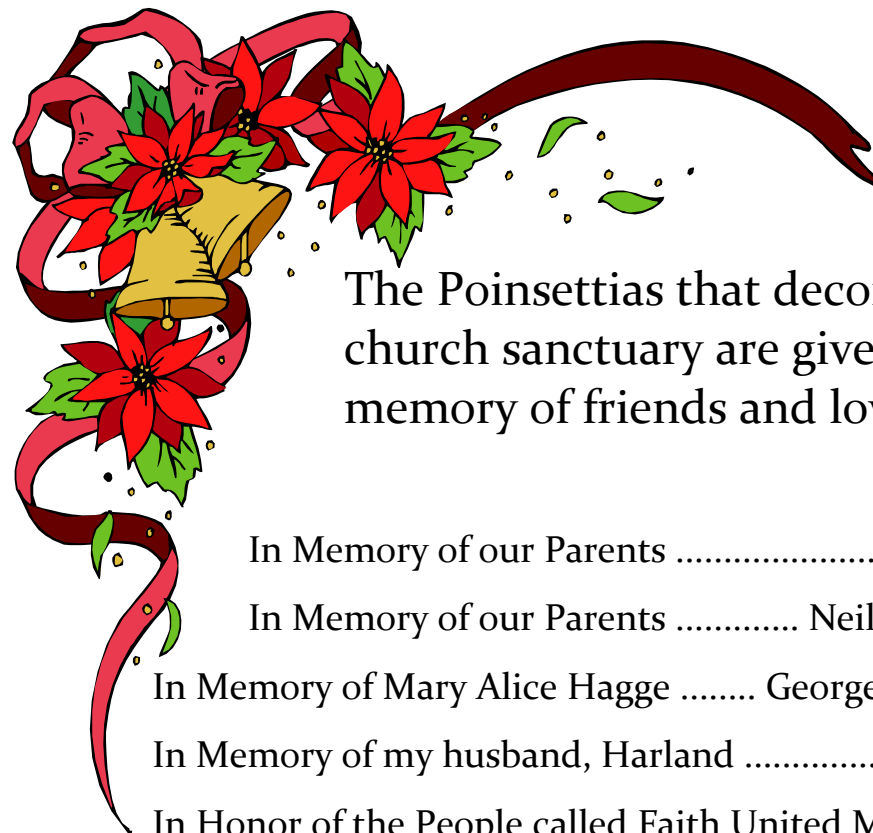
**SPECIAL MUSIC ..... “What Child is This” ..... Katelyn Madigan**

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\*All who wish may stand.

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red book)

TFWS = The Faith We Sing (thin black book)



The Poinsettias that decorate our church sanctuary are given in loving memory of friends and love ones.

In Memory of our Parents ..... Jim & Edy Barber

In Memory of our Parents ..... Neil & Sharon Fruechte

In Memory of Mary Alice Hagge ..... George Hagge and Family

In Memory of my husband, Harland ..... Margaret Hasslen

In Honor of the People called Faith United Methodist Church ...  
... Anonymous

In Memory of Faith United Methodist Women who have passed on...  
... Faith United Methodist Women



NARRATOR: His mother was afraid he would catch cold so, she wrapped him in three layers of clothing.

**WOMEN: My little Ben. You must wrap up tight against the cold night. Here is another robe to wear and gloves for your hands. And don't forget your sheepskin hat.**

BEN: I was so bundled up I could hardly walk from our home to the field that night. My older brothers kept making matters worse by shouting out...

**MEN: Hey! Little bundle from Bethlehem.**

BEN: But their teasing didn't chill the excitement of being one of the men – a shepherd of Israel, like the great king David and I had dreams of doing great deeds.

**CHILDREN: Maybe I would kill a lion or a bear and save the flock!**

BEN: I dreamed of being a hero as we went down the path to this field. And in this very spot we sat down to wait out the night. But there were no bears or lions only the low hum of shepherd's songs and the bleating of sheep and I was soon fighting just to stay awake on that cold clear night.

I must have drifted off to sleep because suddenly I was awakened by shouting and my family running about as if we had been attacked!

**ALL: Wake up! Wake up!**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Isaiah 9:2-7**

LEADER: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

**ALL: You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.**

LEADER: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**ALL: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.**

LEADER: The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**SPECIAL MUSIC .... "O Come, O Come Immanuel " ...Katelyn Madigan**

**GOSPEL READINGS & CHRISTMAS HYMNS**

**"The First Noel" ..... UMH No. 245**

**"Joy to the World" ..... UMH No. 246**

**Reading # 1: Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>2</sup> Now it happened that in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the empire. <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to be registered, each one to his own town. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went

up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered together with Mary, who was legally promised in marriage to him and\* was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> And it happened that while they were there, [the time came] for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**“Away in a Manger”..... UMH No. 217**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem” ..... UMH No. 230**

**Special Music ... “There’s a New Kid In Town” ... Bob Stephan**

**Reading # 2: Matthew 2:6**

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.”

**Special Music ..... “O Holy Night” ... Roger Goetz**

**“An Interactive Shepherds Story”..... Based on Luke 2:8-14**

*This is an interactive Christmas story. Don’t be shy when it comes to reading your part. Enjoy and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us tonight.*

NARRATOR: Ben had lived in the same house all of his life. He was a poor man with just enough sheep and land to “keep the wolf away”. He was a simple man. He seldom traveled into the nearby village of Bethlehem. In fact, he seldom went anywhere.

You see Ben is an old man. He doesn’t like the word old. He had rather be called a “village Elder.”

But on this night, this night of nights Ben is filled with awe and wonder. He remembers that on this night cold and bright, the sky filled with angels and songs and wonderful greetings from the King of Heaven. He remembers the journey to the stable and the Child King he saw that night. The Child who became the Savior of the world, but this is his story and now it’s time for him to tell it.

**ALL: Ben! Ben! It is time.**

BEN: I am coming! I am coming!

NARRATOR: Children come gather round. Sit here. Ben will tell you the story.

BEN: It was a night like this that I sat in this very field behind Simon the potter’s house. My brothers Reuben and David were with me. I was the youngest of my clan and I was never allowed to go with my father on the night watch. But I begged and pleaded with him so much that he finally said,

**MEN: Ben do not wear me out with your constant pleading – you may go with us tonight but only for half the night watch and then you will come home.**

BEN: I was thrilled and I quickly agreed to return home when the first watch was over.

BEN: I grabbed my small shepherds crook and ran to where all the noise was coming from. There was a great light that filled the sky. My brothers and even my father fell to the ground and cried out in fear. We thought God was bringing about the great day of judgment the prophets had predicted. Suddenly, God's angel stood among us and God's glory blazed around us. We were terrified.

**WOMEN: The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."**

BEN: At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

**ALL: "Glory to God in the heavenly heights Peace to all men and women on earth who please him."**

BEN: As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, we talked it over and said, "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has made public to us."

We left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. We told everyone that we met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard us were in awe.

We came back home and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything we had heard and seen. It all turned out exactly the way we had been told by the angles.

NARRATOR: Now children that is the end of Ben's story. Now let's go and tell everyone that our Savior has been born.

**"Hark The Herald Angels Sing" ..... UMH No. 240**

**"Angels We Have Heard On High" ..... UMH No. 238**



**CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE ..... "Silent Night" ... UMH No. 239**

**POSTLUDE**

**Thank you for joining us this evening.**

We invite you to join us for regular Sunday Worship  
at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday.

Children's Church and Sunday School  
are available for youth ages 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.  
Youth Group meets twice a month for 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders.

**We hope to see you again in the New Year!**