

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**8:00PM**

**DECEMBER 24, 2021**

**GATHERING**

**GREETING**

**PRELUDE** *Noel* L. C. Daquin

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively):**

L: We count it in mere hours now. Soon, the first pains of labor will be felt.

P: SOON, THE LIGHT WILL SHINE IN THE DARKNESS. SOON, THE BABY WILL BE BORN.

L: Soon, God will once again break into our lives, coming in a way that is expected yet unusual –

P: A WAY THAT CHALLENGES OUR EXPECTATIONS AND CALLS US TO SEE LIFE DIFFERENTLY.

L: God of birth, God of light, in this time of song and prayer and silence ...

P: REAWAKEN IN US THE AWE OF CHRISTMAS.

L: As we hear again the story of a young woman and a surprising visitor ...

P: REMIND US THAT WE ARE CALLED TO RESPOND TO YOU IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.

L: And when we leave this place ...

P: MAY WE BE WILLING TO SING PRAISES FOR A YOUNG WOMAN WHO SAID YES TO A BIRTH THAT WE PREPARE TO CELEBRATE!

**\*OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#234**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
(vv. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6)

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** *Nancy and Jim Caulder and Lara Caulder Byrd*

**A CHRISTMAS ANTHEM** *Still, Still, Still* N. Luboff

**\*A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION - LET LOVE DWELL WITHIN US (as a group):**

LET THE LOVE THAT SHAPED EARTH AND HEAVEN, DWELL WITHIN US THIS CHRISTMAS.

LET THE LOVE THAT CREATED HUMANITY, DWELL WITHIN US THIS CHRISTMAS.

LET THE LOVE THAT OVERCOMES SUFFERING AND HATRED, DWELL WITHIN US THIS CHRISTMAS.

LET THE LOVE THAT CAUSES US TO REJOICE WITH LOVED ONES, DWELL WITHIN US THIS CHRISTMAS.

LET THE LOVE THAT FORGIVES AND RENEWS, DWELL WITHIN US THIS CHRISTMAS.

LET THE LOVE THAT BRINGS RECONCILIATION AFTER SEPARATION, DWELL WITHIN US THIS CHRISTMAS.

LET THE LOVE THAT BRINGS THE BLESSING OF PEACE, DWELL WITHIN US THIS CHRISTMAS.

AND MAY WE SHARE THAT PEACE WITH ALL PEOPLE NEAR AND FAR. AMEN.

**\*GLORIA PATRI #71**

**WITNESS TO THE WORD** *The Reason for the Season ...* Rev. L. Kim Eanes

**A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE**

- **THE INVITATION**
- **OFFERING** *Toccata in F* J. Pachelbel
- **\*THE DOXOLOGY (to the tune of: Angels from the Realms of Glory)**  
ALL CREATION JOIN IN PRAISING, GOD THE FATHER, SPIRIT, SON;  
EVERMORE YOUR VOICES RAISING, TO TH' ETERNAL THREE IN ONE.  
COME AND WORSHIP, COME AND WORSHIP,  
WORSHIP CHRIST THE NEWBORN KING!
- **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**
- **PASTORAL PRAYER**
- **THE LORD'S PRAYER #895**
- **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**
- **BREAKING THE BREAD**
- **\*GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**A SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT UMH#239**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

*The passing of the Light of Christ is a special tradition for Christmas Eve. As you receive your light from an usher, you will receive the message ... "This is the Light of Christ". As we sing the fourth verse of our hymn, raise your candle to heaven. At the conclusion of the hymn, extinguish the light of your candle, but keep the light within ever burning.*

**\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

\*Please stand as you are able