

Shavertown United Methodist Church

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world!

(* indicates please stand if you are able)

PRELUDE "Ring Your Bells" (7:00) Cherubs
"We Adore Thee" (7:00) Good News Ringers
"Sing We Now of Christmas" (10:00) Praise Ringers

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight, on Christmas Eve we kneel with families all over the earth
in the presence of the Most High.

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of
deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

We lit a candle of hope, longing for Emmanuel, God with us.

Then we lit a candle of peace, awaiting the coming of the Prince of Peace.

We lit the candle of joy for God renews our spirits and places a new song in our hearts.

**We lit the candle of love, remembering that God so loved the world
that a savior was made in the form of Love Incarnate.**

The Light of the World comes to each of us. As we have been invaded by light,
let us enlighten.

As we have been found, let us seek out the lost.

As we have been liberated, let us set the captives free.

**For unto us a child is born, One whom God sends to bring peace and light and freedom
and reconciliation. Thanks be to God!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER Wendy (7:00)/ Bob & Cathy (10:00)

**Holy God, take us into that night long ago, and in our imaginations, let us marvel at the
holy child, worship on bended knee and sing with the angels. Let us behold the tender care
of Mary and the watchful care of Joseph. Let us be blessed by the gaze of the Christ child.**

**Loving God, when we leave this place, may we leave like the shepherds, singing and
praising God, for Christ is born again and again, born to set us free, born to give us hope,
born to change the world. Let it happen again. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** "Angels We Have Heard on High"
(Stanzas 1, 3, & 4) #238

THE GOOD NEWS IN SCRIPTURE AND MUSIC

The Prophecy . . .

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol

"Joy to the World" (Stanzas 1 & 4)

Red Hymnal #246

Scripture

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Carol

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Stanza 1)

Red Hymnal #216

The Birth . . .

Scripture

Luke 2:1-5

Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Stanza 1)

Red Hymnal #230

Scripture

Luke 2:6-7

Song

"Cradle Lullaby"

Chancel Choir & God's Handful

The Proclamation . . .

Scripture

Luke 2:8-14

Carol

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (Stanza 1 & 2)

Red Hymnal #240

The Shepherd's Adoration . . .

Scripture

Luke 2:15-20

Carol

"What Child is This" (Stanzas 1 & 2)

(7:00) Red Hymnal #219

Piano Solo

"What Child is This"

(10:00) Byron

The Light of the World . . .

Scripture

John 1:1-5, 9-14

Song

"Hallelujah"

(7:00) God's Handful

Song

"What Is This Brightness Shining?"

(10:00) Chancel Choir

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"God Makes This World Our Home"

Pastor Jon

GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Child of God"

(7:00) Children of Light

"Mary Did You Know"

(10:00) Emma

***MUSICAL RESPONSE**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

O God, you have given us the greatest gift, your Son. We respond to you by giving to you what is precious to us. Grant that we might learn to give even more freely, and teach us how giving changes us. We give thanks for your unceasing love through this tiny child.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

“Night of the Father’s Love”

Chancel Choir &
God’s Handful

(As the light comes to you, please tip your unlit candle to receive the light of Christ – and then hold it upright to pass it onto the person next to you.)

“Silent Night”

*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, shepherds’ quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the savior is born, Christ the savior is born!*

*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!*

***BENEDICTION**

We go out into the world with good news of great joy – Jesus Christ is born!

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth – peace.

***POSTLUDE**

“The Messiah Medley”

By George F. Handel
Arr. Don Wyrzten
Piano: Nancy

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This is a magical night. God-with-us has come to touch our world, our lives and make a home in our hearts. God-with-us has come to bring us out of darkness into a glorious light. God-with-us invites us now to come to the table, believing in the promises of God fulfilled tonight.

Here we hear angels, and see shepherds, and are transformed by a baby.

Here love is offered, and love is found.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

“God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” (1 John 4: 9-10)

With joy and gratitude, we break this bread and remember another night
when your love was revealed.

For on that night many years after Jesus’ birth, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**With awe and wonder, we fill this cup and remember another night
when your forgiveness was revealed.**

Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Pour out you Holy Spirit on all of us gather here, that we who walked in darkness might walk forth in the light of Christ. Shine you Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, that your glorious grace and love might flow through us as the very presence of Christ.

**As we receive these gifts, may we shine forth as your people,
that the glory of Christ might be revealed for all to see.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

By God’s grace, this table is open for all.

You are invited to receive this gift given for you.

*[Tonight, you will be invited by the ushers to come to the altar to receive communion.
Please receive the bread and the cup and take as you receive the elements.]*