

Shavertown United Methodist Church

December 24, 2022

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 "Sing We Now of Christmas" Good News Ringers (7:00)
"Now the Green Blade Riseth" Praise Ringers (10:00)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP/ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE

Kris & Courtney McCarthy (7:00) Rachel Koerwer & Andrew Plante (10:00)

A miracle happened in a stable in Bethlehem. It seemed like an ordinary event – just a son born to a peasant couple. But it was an extraordinary event. Angels announced it. God had sent his Son into the world.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of light and hope.

The second candle symbolized God's presence and nearness to us.

The third Sunday, the candle reminded us that Jesus came to all people everywhere.

The fourth candle reminded us that believing in Jesus means sharing with others.

Tonight, we light the Christ candle. Christmas is here – we celebrate with great and wondrous thanks, our Savior's birth!

Christ is born! Emmanuel, God-with-us is here!

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas! Alleluia! Amen!

OPENING PRAYER Ginger McCabe (7:00 & 10:00)

God of angels and babies, fill the skies with light and song and fill our hearts with wonder and peace. For on this night a window to heaven opens, and we catch a glimpse of an incredible love which descends as a child. O, let the angels sing and let our hearts be softened. Let our lives be filled anew with hope and joy. God of shepherds and stars, open us to the miracle of your love which enters the world and our lives this holy night. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** "O Come All Ye Faithful" #234
Vs. 1-3, 6

Special Music "The Scarlet Thread" Children of Light & God's Handful (7:00)

Time with Children (7:00)

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
Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Stanza 1) #230

Scripture Luke 2:6-7
Song "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
Song "What Sweeter Music" Chancel Choir (7:00 & 10:00)

The Light of the World . . .

Scripture John 1:1-5, 9-14

GIFT OF MUSIC "O Holy Night" (7:00) Barbara Buxton
(10:00) Emma Oley

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "A Visit from Joseph" Pastor Jon Buxton

GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD "Jesus Christ Is Born Today" Handel

***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**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your greatest gift – your very Word came to earth, to live with us and through us; you have filled us with your grace and truth, your forgiveness and love. Receive our thanks and praise. As you have given us, so now we share your gifts and your grace with a world in need. May this offering help bring your light and love to those who still wander in darkness. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

Chancel Choir & God's Handful

"Night of the Father's Love"

(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 J.F. Handel
Arr. Don Wyrzten
Piano: Nancy Evans

