

**CHRISTAMS EVE 2016
CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4:30 P.M.**

ENTRANCE

Come Ring Those Christmas Bells (insert)

WELCOME

READING# 1

Isaiah 9:6

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

READING # 2

Isaiah 7:14; Luke 2:6-7

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.

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, the promise of God.

KID'S TIME

The Backward King

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"... Duane Griffin

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!

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CAROL OF PRAISE “Go Tell It On The Mountain”...UMH No. 251 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.

READING # 3: *Isaiah 40:3-5*

CAROL OF PRAISE "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"UMH 213 vs. 1-2

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

READING # 4 *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

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

READING # 5 *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 “What Child Is This”...UMH No.219

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.

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READING # 6

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

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”...UMH 230 vs.1-3

READING # 7

Luke 2:8-21

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

“The First Noel”...UMH No. 245 vs.1-2

READING # 8

Luke 2:25-32

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

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.

Readers: Mark Lamont, Janet Welch, Les Wells and Haley Becker

Special Music: Bob Stephen and Duane Griffin