

# Order of Worship

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve Service

4:00 p.m.

**Prelude** *What Child Is This* **Pianist**

**Welcome** **Rev. Carolyn Nelson**

**Introit** *O Holy Night* **Roseina Bobbitt, Soprano**

**\*Hymn 240** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* **Congregation**

**Call to Worship** *Psalms 96:1-4a* **Rev. Nelson/Congregation**

O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among the peoples.  
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

**Opening Prayer** **Rev. Nelson/ Congregation**

Holy God, heaven and earth are met this day in the newborn Child, Savior of the world. We celebrate his birth; for in him you come close to us, that we might be close to you. We give you thanks for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and all he means to us. Especially we give you thanks for:

the prospects of peace in the world,  
for confidence in your almighty love,  
for those who generously give,  
for those who graciously receive,  
for the Church that nurtures us in faith.

God of all mercy, as you have come in Jesus Christ to be our guest, inspire our hearts to a hospitality that welcomes all your children in his name. Especially we pray for:

those who have not heard your good news,  
the sick and suffering,  
those who know no laughter, only tears,  
those who govern and rule,  
those enslaved to tyranny,  
prisoners of addiction or abuse,  
your Church to be a refuge for the needy.

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Lighting the Christ Candle** **The Edwards Family / Rev. Nelson**

**Special Music** *Jacob's Star* **Patty Macready**

**Old Testament Lesson** *Isaiah 9:2-7* **Earl Heath**

**Hymn 218** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1, 4)* **Congregation**

**Epistle Lesson** *Titus 2:11-14* **Earl Heath**

**The Gospel Lessons**

**The Christmas Stories**

**Rev. Nelson**

**The Birth of Jesus**

Hymn 234

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1)*

*Luke 2:1-7*

Hymn 217

*Away in a Manger (vs. 1)*

**The Visit of the Angels and Shepherds**

Hymn 238

*Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1,3)*

*Luke 2:8-16*

**The Visit of the Wise Men**

Hymn 245

*The First Noel*

*Matthew 2:1-11*

**The Word Made Flesh**

*John 1:1-14*

**\*Hymn 246**

*Joy to the World*

**Congregation**

**\*\*Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Confession**

**Pardon**

**The Peace**

**Offering**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

**Rev. Nelson/Congregation**

**Congregation**

**Rev. Nelson/Congregation**

**Rev. Nelson/Congregation**

**Choir**

**\*Doxology**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

**Hymnal, 94**

**Rev. Nelson/Congregation**

**Rev. Nelson/Congregation**

**Rev. Nelson**

**Communion Servers**

**\*\*\*Hymn and Candle Lighting 239**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

**Congregation**

**Dismissal with Blessing**

**Rev. Nelson**

\*Please stand as you are able

\*\*Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion with us tonight. Please come forward as the ushers direct you to the altar rail and kneel or stand as you are able.

You may kneel at the rail for prayer if you like. Offerings left at the rail tonight will be given to the United Methodist Children's Home.

\*\*\*The ministers and ushers will light candles of those sitting on either side of the middle aisle. Please pass the light to the ends of your pew by lighting the candle of the person sitting next to you.

**Silent Night, Holy 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

**Poinsettias**

You are welcome to take your poinsettias with you after the service.  
Persons delivering poinsettias to home-bound members are asked to  
pick up those flower(s) tonight as well.