

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2023, 9:00 PM

Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Please fill out the red attendance pad located at the end of each pew.

All of the carols tonight can be found in the red United Methodist Hymnal.

** At this sign you are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Joel Raney

Christmas Handbell Choir

Welcome

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The Christ Candle

Leader: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared,

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

People: We live as people who both celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places, and also as those who wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.

Leader: We light these candles as signs of our surprising hope, our just peace, our persistent joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come!

People: Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of Love Incarnate,
we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory;
for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world;

**People: how oppression still enslaves;
how garments of war are still stained with blood;
how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety.**

Leader: We also see what is wrong in us:
how passionately we pursue the things of this world,
but forget to ponder the mystery of faith;

**People: how we do not practice the peace you intend
in our relationships, our community,
or even in the church.**

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid.

**People: Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you.
In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Leader: Good news! Great joy!
In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.
Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace.

People: Amen.

Anthem

Still, Still, Still
Chancel Choir

Norman Luboff

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Do You See?

Rev. Wines

Anthem

Hark! The Angels Sing!
Chancel Choir

F. Mendelssohn/C. Wesley
arr. Taylor Davis

Prayer of the People

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

Offering

You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.

*You may text to give at 84321 or go to the Online Worship page of our website
and click "Make your online offering."*

Sharing the Light of Christ

Rev. Wines

Please tip only unlit candles to receive the flame
from those already lit to prevent hot wax from spilling.

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

Silent Prayer

Carol

Joy to the World

UMH 246

Benediction

Rev. Wines

Postlude

God Rest You Merry

Wilbur Held

Annelisa Crabtree, organ

*Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness, and Prayer of the People reprinted by permission of
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Candle Lighting Liturgy adapted from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/our-spirit-waits/>

MERRY CHRISTMAS!