

THE CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

† THE PROCLAMATION OF LIGHT

The pastor will light her candle from the Christ Candle, and then will light the candles of the congregation members. After the candles are lighted, the following carols will be sung:

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,
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!

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks
by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all of humankind,
to all of humankind.

"To you, in David's town,
this day is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign,
and this shall be the sign."

Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

† Please stand as you are able





Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Snow Hill UMC

11:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 24, 2017

Snow Hill United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

December 24, 2016

11:00 p.m.

Liturgical Color: White

GATHERING

WELCOME We are delighted that you have come to join with each other as we worship God in anticipation of the coming of Christmas morning. Let us prepare our hearts, our minds, and our spirits for this hour.

PRELUDE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Keith Lawson

Into this dark night comes light.

The Word became human and dwelt among us.

The angels sang, and the shepherds came.

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The star shone, and the magi followed.

Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

The dawn from on high will break upon us

To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

† HYMN OF PRAISE:

The First Noel

No. 230

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

O God, you have brought us again to this holy night when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that the Spirit of Christ may be born anew in our hearts and that we may joyfully welcome Jesus into our lives to reign over us.

Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips, too, that we may sing with uplifted hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward all," through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING TO GOD THROUGH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

THE GOSPEL READING:

Luke 2:1-20

HOMILY

The Dawn of Redeeming Grace

Dr. Spicer

MUSIC MEDITATION

Mary Did You Know?

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

(italicized words are sung responsively to the tune of *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

(Pastor) *May the good Lord be with you. Lift your hearts to God in praise.*

(All) *God deserves our thanks and praise. To the Lord our hearts we raise,
Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

(P) *In the Word of God made flesh, great and glorious mystery –*

(A) *Now we see with vision fresh, God's abundant majesty.*

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

(P) *The night Lord Jesus was betrayed, He took bread and when He prayed,*

(A) *He broke and gave them of the bread and unto His disciples said:*

(P) "Take, eat, this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

(P) *Then, when the sacred meal was o'er, our blessed Savior spoke once more:*

(A) *He offered thanks, and lifted up, to give to all the blessed cup.*

(P) When the supper was over, Christ took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to His disciples and said: Drink from this, and all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins."

(A) **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

(P) *Therefore with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven above*

(A) *Let us praise His name, whose birth brings to us eternal love.*

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Come forward to receive the elements and pray at the altar railing.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this Holy mystery in which You have given Yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of Your spirit, to give ourselves for others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.