

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
**LONG MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**5:00 P.M.**

*On this most holy night, we ask that you please enter the sanctuary in reverent silence.*

PRELUDE

Traditional Christmas Carols  
String Quartet

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

**People: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.**

Leader: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace.

**People: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.**

Leader: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy.

**People: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.**

Leader: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love.

**People: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: God of light, tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We thank you for this, the most precious of Christmas gifts, and we ask that you keep the hope, peace, joy and love of this season in our hearts, now and throughout the coming year. You are Emmanuel, God with us, now and forevermore.

**People: God is with us! Amen!**

\*HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

UMH 234

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.**

REFRAIN: **O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

REFRAIN

**Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:**

REFRAIN

READING: Luke 2:1-20

NEED READER

SOLO

**"Breath Of Heaven"  
Soloist Kelly Mundy**

Amy Grant & Chris Eaton

REFLECTION

Rev. Ed Priestaf

\*HYMN

**"What Child Is This"**

Hymnal 219

**What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping**

REFRAIN: **This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.**

*Refrain*

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own  
him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

*Refrain*

\*CONFESSION

**O God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us  
as light shining in the darkness.  
We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted  
good news to be good.  
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little,  
hoping for less.  
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the  
Fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ our Lord.**

\*PARDON

Leader: God is light. In God there is no darkness at all.

In the name of Jesus Christ, light of the world, you are forgiven.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, light of the world,  
you are forgiven.**

**All: Glory to God! Amen.**

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OFFERTORY "O Holy Night" Aldolphe Charles Adam  
Soloist Eleanor Brown

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "In the Bleak Midwinter" Rossetti  
**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I  
would give a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part.  
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right . . .

. . . we praise your name and join your unending hymn:

People: **Holy holy holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and  
earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ . . .

. . . as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ was born, Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ  
will come again.**

Leader: . . . all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom  
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our  
daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who  
trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from  
evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory, forever and  
ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

UMH 216

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.**

**O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

UMH 229

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.**

**Flocks were sleeping shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing,  
free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe  
was born for you!**

#### PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. By the birth of your holy child Jesus you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in Jesus' light we may see light. Bestow on us the most excellent gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of Jesus may be formed in us, that we may have the ever-brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

#### \*SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

\*HYMN

"Silent Night"

UMH 239

**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.**

