

Christ United Methodist Church

December 24, 2015, 9:00 PM

A Family Christmas Eve

Prelude

Hymn

Call to Worship

In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's love.

Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.

We embrace our identity as beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

In our homes and in our church we offer warm hospitality by welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.

We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.

Christmas Prayer

God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore the needy, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbors, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting: The Last Candle - The Birth of Christ Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

Thanks be to God

Tonight is the Eve of Christmas, where we recall the hope we have in Christ. Tonight we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

First Candle We speak of hope - because God keeps God's promises to us.

Second Candle We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God

Last Candle (Christmas Eve) Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

(Light the white Christ candle now.)

Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you embody God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we too are encouraged to embody God too and that we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Hymns and Stories a Celebration of Christmas through Music:

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7- Pastor Bruce McDaniel

Story of O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel #211 verses 1, 4, 5,6

Scripture: Isiah 11: 1-4a, 6-9- Pastor Bruce McDaniel

Story of: "O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-35, 38 -Pastor Bruce McDaniel

Story of "Hark the Herald Angel Sing"

Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angel Sing" #240

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7- Pastor Bruce McDaniel

Story of: "What Child is This"

Hymn: "What Child is This" #219

Song: Mary Did You Know

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-16- Pastor Bruce McDaniel

Story of: "The First Noel"

Hymn: "The First Noel" # 245 verses 1,2,4

Scripture: John 1: 1-14 – Pastor Bruce McDaniel
Story of: “Silent Night-
Hymn: Silent Night #239 (Candle Lighting)

Silence

Benediction

Closing Hymn- Joy To the World #246
(Please place your candles in the basket as you leave)

Poinsettias may be taken by those who ordered them.

