

CENTRAL

United Church of Christ
GROW FAITH • SHARE LOVE • REACH OUT



December 24, 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6:00PM

The Mission of
Central United Church of Christ is...
to be a Christ-centered community
of faithful disciples,
who are called
to GROW IN FAITH, and
to SHARE GOD'S LOVE
as we REACH OUT
to each other,
to our community
and to our world.

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* indicates please stand, as you are able

We Worship to Celebrate the Birth of Our Savior

PRELUDE "A Boy Is Born" - Titcomb

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #112

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Celebrate the coming of the Light.

O Sing to the Lord a new song, God's salvation is at hand.

Celebrate the coming of Salvation.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

Celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace.

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

Celebrate the coming of Christ!

INTROIT "O Holy Night" (the choir)

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,

it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,

for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!

O night divine, o night when Christ was born!

O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise His name forever!

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

(Bill Stine, baritone)

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

God of light and love, shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead. Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light. May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM "O Tannebaum" - arr. Carl Burkel

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou tree most fair and lovely!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou tree most fair and lovely!
The sight of thee at Christmas tide,
spreads hope and gladness far and wide.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou tree most fair and lovely!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou hast a wondrous message.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou hast a wondrous message;
Thou dost proclaim the Saviour's birth,
good will to men and peace on earth.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou hast a wondrous message.

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum!
Wie treu sind deine blaetter.
O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum!
Wie treu sind deine blaetter.
Du gruenst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit,
nein auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.
O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum!
Wie treu sind deine blaetter.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE GLORIA (the choir)

We Hear the Word in Lessons and Carols

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 22:15-22

“God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.”

Hymn “O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful” #117

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

“Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.”

Hymn “Behold A Branch Is Growing” #113

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

“The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

Hymn “Angels We Have Heard On High” #105

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

“St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.”

Hymn “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night” #106

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #88

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

“St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.”

Choir Anthem “This Child, This King” - Daniel Gawthrop

Let us see this child, this king,
softly now He comes, as was foretold.
Angels surround Him, Heaven sings His name.
Let us see this child this king,
wrapped in swaddling as we wrap our own,
born of a virgin, born in David's city.

Why should the angels of heaven come down
unto poor shepherds of Bethlehem town?
Why should God love us and send His Son,
His only begotten, the radiant One?

Let us see this child, this king,
wrapped in swaddling as we wrap our own,
born of a virgin, born in David's city,
born to wear a crown. Let us see this king.

THE SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

“The Wise Men are led by the star of Jesus.”

Bell Choir “We Three Kings” - arr. Tucker

THE SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

“St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.”

Hymn “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

#107

We Make Our Joyful Response to God’s Word

PASTORAL PRAYER

MESSAGE

“The Words Never Read at Christmas” Rev. Dr. Judith Scott

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Offertory “Here Is Now The Divine Infant” - Busser

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Do not be afraid! Hear the good news of great joy for *all* people: A Savior has been born this night for you.

(During the introduction of the following carol, the ushers will receive candles lighted from the pastor’s candle. The ushers, in turn, will light the candle of the first person in each pew, who will pass the light to his/her neighbor. Dip the unlighted candle only. Raise and lower your candle at the lead of the pastor during the singing of the carol.)

***HYMN**

“Silent Night”

#101

(Following the singing of this beloved carol, please extinguish your candle as the pastor places hers on the Altar. Please be careful with dripping wax. At the end of the service, you may place your candle in the receptacle in the narthex.)

We Depart with Hearts Overflowing in Joy

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING HYMN** “Joy to the World” #120

POSTLUDE “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” - Pachelbel

Welcome to our Christmas Eve Service here at Central United Church of Christ. We are delighted that you have chosen to take a few moments this evening to worship the Lord with us. We wish you a Blessed Christmas!

We would like to express our appreciation to our Pulpit Supply Minister, Rev. Dr. Judith Scott, for leading us in worship tonight. We would also like to thank our Director of Music, Dr. Patrick Clark; Church Organist, Shirley Klein; Bell Choir Director, Rene Miserez; Senior Choir members; and Bell Choir members for the wonderful music they have shared with us this night and throughout the Advent Season.

The Christmas evergreen arrangement is in honor of our church musicians who contribute so beautifully to the services throughout the year.

The Christmas Eve Bulletins have been given tonight in loving honor of our grandchildren Gracia, Brynn, Addison, Isabelle, Mason, Paige, and Ava from Grandma and Papa Mutert.

Copies of the Christmas Eve Memorial/Honorarium Listings are in the narthex for those who participated.

Ministers	Every Member
Director of Music	Dr. Patrick Clark
Organist	Shirley Klein
Bell Choir Director	Rene Miserez
Young Youth Director	Rene Miserez



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