

A Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2017

Five O'clock

Welcome and Invocation

Prelude "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming"
Craven Brass

*Call to Worship

While all things were in quiet silence, and night was in the midst of her swift course, the Almighty Word, O Lord, leaped down out of Thy royal throne.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ is Born!

*Hymn 234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
(Verses 1-4)

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Each Sunday in Advent we have lighted a candle – candles which represented our expectations, and our preparations and our declarations concerning the promise of Christ's coming.

Now the night of our celebration has come!

Let us celebrate that God has chosen to become one with us.

Let us celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Let us celebrate the light that has come into the world in Christ.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Loving God, on this night our joy is overflowing, our hearts are filled with love, and our gratitude to You is beyond our ability to express fully. Thank You for bringing light into our darkness, forgiveness to cover our sin, joy to our sorrow, and peace to the chaos of our lives.

O Christ, through this story of Your Nativity You touch us with unfathomable truth. We are filled with awe at the marvelous vulnerability and power at Your birth. Guide us to understand Your incarnate love – God with us – Emmanuel. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-20

Meditation "Jesus is the Greatest Gift"

Offering Tonight's offering will go to support services at local women's shelters.

Offertory "Away in a Manger"
Craven Brass

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts;
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!**

Blessing of the Offering

Solo "Christ Child's Lullaby/Brightest and Best/Song in Gaelic"
Jennifer Licko Carrere

Candle Lighting Liturgy

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

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness,
on them has the light shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only begotten of the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

*Candle Lighting "Silent 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, 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 the 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!

UMH # 94

“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.

No more let sins and sorrows grown, nor thorns infest the
ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders
of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of
his love.

*Blessing

*Postlude “Hallelujah Chorus”
 Craven Brass

*Indicates congregation standing as able.

Please extinguish your candle before exiting the pew area!

The Craven Brass Quintet

 **Swansboro**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday *December 24, 2017* *5:00 pm*