

*Candle Lighting

*Closing Hymn "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 host 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!

*Blessing

*Postlude "Carol of the Bells"
Terri Boykin

*Indicates congregation standing as able.

Please extinguish your candle before exiting the pew area.



December 24, 2019

7 pm Traditional Service

Christmas Eve Service

Welcome

Prelude “Joy to the World”
Terri Boykin

*Call to Worship

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Augustus and Quirinius – ancient names that seem odd to today’s ears...

Characters in an ancient story that we long to hear.

Nazareth and Bethlehem – distant towns we know little about.

Places our hearts long for because of the One who traveled there.

We gather together to hear once more, a story so ancient and yet so current, so distant and yet so near.

We come to hear the story of God’s coming to us! Emmanuel!

*Hymn UMH 238 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Opening Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, we confess that we have lived far too long in dark places of our own making. Forgive us for the way we have walled ourselves in, shut the world out, and held ourselves captive to our fear and failings. Free us from this place, Lord. Give us strength to run again with shepherds to the mystery and miracle of your manger tonight. May your Child of healing and Child of hope take the things that hurt us most and redeem us with your light and love. We wait in eager anticipation for the glory of your salvation this night. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Rejoice and be glad: Your burdens are lifted; your captivity is ended! The Lord’s great light pierces the darkness, breaching the walls of our prisons, revealing the way of true freedom. Light, love, and salvation have come to us this night. Christ is born, and with Christ, we are born anew! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light this final candle tonight, the Christ Candle, remembering that Christ is the Light that has come into the world and the darkness has not overcome it. May God’s light shine in our hearts anew as we become children of the light who walk in the ways that lead to life.

Christmas Bidding Prayer

Special Music “A Strange Way to Save the World”
Leah Czanderna

*Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-20

Homily “A Strange Way to Save the World” Pastor Kevin

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Tonight’s offering will go towards effort to install showers in the bottom of building #2 for Volunteer Work Teams and Future Housing Ministries at SUMC.

Offertory “O Holy Night”
Pam Castellano, Flute

*Doxology UMH # 94

**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!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*The Great Thanksgiving with Christmas Carols
Breaking of the Bread
Giving of the Bread and Cup

(All are invited to the Table of the Lord. We serve by intinction; take the bread and dip a portion into the cup and then partake.)

Communion Music “What Child Is This”
Pam Castellano, Flute

Prayer after the Meal

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.