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Join us in January!

On January 7th we'll be celebrating the Epiphany of our Lord at both the 8:25 AM and 10:30 AM services. Please also mark your calendars for our new, 2024 series that will launch on Sunday, January 14th titled: **"Faith Finding Traction: *Where Rubber Meets Road.*"** This series reminds us that we are all wired to serve. It's how we grow. It is how our trust in God deepens. We also invite you to read an accompanying book *"The Externally Focused Life"* by Rick Rusaw & Eric Swanson. Copies will be available in the church office on Sundays and during the week. Come and start the NEW YEAR off right. YOU WERE MADE TO SERVE!



"Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World"



December 24, 2022
7:00 pm
Traditional Service

665 W Corbett Avenue
Swansboro, North Carolina 28584
910 326-4822
www.SwansboroUMC.org

Pastor G. Kevin Baker: PastorKevin@swansboroumc.org
Pastor Regina Harrison: PastorRegina@swansboroumc.org
Director of Music Ministries: **Kristen Viszneki:**
kristen@swansboroumc.org
Beacon Worship Leader: **Bryan Hoff**
Beaconworship@swansboroumc.org

Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Welcome and Centering Prayer

Prelude "Joy to the World"

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!

Praise be to God who has heard our cries.

Our souls sing out God's praise!

God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.

Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!

And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives. AMEN.

*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 the 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.

*The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us now show one another signs of reconciliation and love. (*Wave to one another and remain in seats*)

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Christmas Bidding Prayer

Light the Advent Candle FWS #2090, (verse #5)

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Center)

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.

Choral Anthem "Sing We Now of Christmas"

*Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Sermon "Hear the Angels Sing"

Invitation

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings, and Connection Cards

All undesignated offering gifts tonight will go to ZOE Empowers.

In 2024, Swansboro UMC is hoping to sponsor two groups of 60-100 orphaned youth – helping to empower them through a three-year, locally-led program, where they receive micro-grants, life skills, and vocational training to become secure, healthy, and connected community members.

Offertory "Still, Still, Still"

*Doxology UMH #94

*Prayer of Dedication

*The Great Thanksgiving with Christmas Carols

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of the Bread and Cup

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.

*Candle Lighting & Closing Hymn

UMH #239 "Silent Night"

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*

**** Please extinguish your candle before leaving your seat.**