

Central United Methodist Church

Candles and Carols

A service of hope, peace, joy, and love

December 24, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Prelude

- “What Child is This” arr. Lloyd Larson. . . . . Flutists  
-Madalyn Marshall & Deborah Reed
- “The First Noel” . . . . . arr. David Lasko
- “O Little Town of Bethlehem”. . . . . arr. Don Hustad
- “In Dulci Jubilo”. . . . . arr. Charles Callahan  
Sherry von Oeyen, organ

Welcome and Announcements. . . . . Rev. Dr. Stephanie M. Sault

\*Greeting. . . . . *U. M. Book of Worship*

Let us dance with delight in the Lord  
and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing,

**for eternal salvation has appeared on the earth. Alleluia**

\*Processional Carol 250. . . . . “Once in Royal David’s City”

\*Opening Prayer

**O heavenly Father,**  
**as we prepare ourselves for the coming of your Son,**  
**fill our hearts and lives with praise.**  
**Grant that we may be just and merciful,**  
**ready to help in the needs of our neighbor**  
**and conscious of your great love for all the world.**  
**Fill the Christian family with your spiritual gifts**  
**of forgiveness, patience, mutual love, and unending joy.**  
**All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Call to Light

Choir and Congregation

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**  
**Come to our hearts and in our presence dwell.**  
**We wait in hope for peace once again.**  
**Return to us the joy of Bethlehem.**  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come in love, our darkness to dispel.**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 555)

Light of Hope

Narration and Lighting the First Advent Candle

Lighting the Candles: Jeff & Ellen DeLong  
 Narrators: Sybille Jobin & Barbara Snyder

Choir

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.  
 From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.  
 Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
 Dear desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Choir and Congregation

**Come, Thou hope of our salvation, Promised One by prophets foretold.**  
**With sincere anticipation, hearts like flow’rs before Thee unfold.**  
**As the saints who came before us, patiently we call on Thee.**  
**Lifting our voices, we join in the chorus of the faithful who long for Thee.**

Choir ...of the faithful who long for Thee. Alleluia, Alleluia!

\*Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-20. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 860)

*Light of Peace*

Narration and Lighting the Second Advent Candle

*Choir*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies.  
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."  
Lamb of God and Child of Peace, born that war and strife may cease.  
Born our brother to become, born that we might live as one.  
Born that we may one day see peace on earth and harmony.  
Born to us, with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

*Choir and Congregation*

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild he lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

\*Psalter 818. . . . . Psalm 98, Response 2

*Light of Joy*

Narration and Lighting the Third Advent Candle

*Choir and Congregation*

**Born is the Child in manger small whom God has sent to save us all,  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Glory to God Who reigns on high! Glory to God Who reigns on high!**

*Choir*

Source of our joy, to Thee we raise our grateful songs of endless praise.  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Glory to God Who reigns on high! Glory to God Who reigns on high!

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory to God in the heavens on high!  
Jesus, the gift from heav'n above, fills all our hearts with joy and love.  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Glory to God Who reigns on high! Glory to God who reigns – on high!

*Light of Love*

Narration and Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

Scripture Reading: Titus 2:11-14. . . . . (Pew Bible, Page 969)

*Choir*

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine.  
Love came down at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.  
Love was born at Christmas in a simple cattle stall.  
Love is born this Christmas in the hearts of one and all.

*Choir and Congregation*

**Love be our example, love be yours and love be mine;  
love for one another with the love of God divine.**

*Thanksgiving and Holy Communion*

Invitation

Prayer of Confession. . . . . *U. M. Book of Worship*

**God, all-powerful,  
grant that we may rid ourselves of the works of darkness,  
and that we may invest ourselves with the weapons of light  
in this life to which your Son, Jesus Christ,  
with great humility came to visit us;  
so that in the final day,  
when he returns in majestic glory to judge the living and the dead,  
we shall rise to eternal life through Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

Words of Pardon

Leader to people: Hear the good news; Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

Leader and people: **Glory to God. Amen.**

\*The Peace *(Let us exchange signs of reconciliation and love)*

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Offering *(Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.)*

Offertory: “In Dulci Jubilo”. . . . . arr. Charles Callahan

The Great Thanksgiving. . . . . Hymnal 20-22, Musical Setting C

The Lord’s Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

*After receiving Communion please take a candle with you as you return to your seat.*

Unison Prayer After Communion

**We give you thanks, Most Gracious God,  
for allowing us to share in this feast as your family  
and to be fed with the bread of heaven;  
give us grace that we all may grow in love,  
glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord**

*Light of Christ*

Narration and Lighting the Christ Candle

*The ushers will light their candles from the Christ Candle; then they will light candles on the aisles. Please pass the light of Christ to your neighbor.*

\*Lighting of the Candles: “Silent Night, Holy Night”

*Choir and Congregation*

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*Choir*

Silent night, holy night, fill our hearts with Thy light.  
In the darkness may we shine with the promise of love divine;  
Light of heaven on earth, light of heaven on earth.

*Choir and Congregation*

**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!**

*As candles are still being lighted, we will continue with this carol.*

\*Carol 239. . . . . “Silent Night, Holy Night”

*Please extinguish candles. At the conclusion of the service they may be placed in the containers at the back of the Sanctuary.*

\*Dismissal with Blessing

Go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord.  
**We are sent in the name of the Christ Child.**  
Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

\*Response: Carol 246 . . . . . “Joy to the World”

\*Postlude: “Angels We Have Heard on High”. . . . . arr. Michael Helman

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**IN MINISTRY**

*The Mission of Central UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*

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Minister of Music/Organist..... Sherry von Oeyen  
Church Secretary..... Agnes Campbell  
Child's Play Director..... Jo Ann B. Black  
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Retired Pastor..... David D. Reed  
Professor MBC..... Kenneth A. Beals  
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