

**Christmas Eve Worship
Candlelight and Communion
December 24, 2021**

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Rob Bruce

MUSIC **It's Christmas!**
McEver Singers and Ron Clements, Trumpet

GATHERING WORDS Leader and People

L: Welcome to this most magical night when angels and shepherds mingle and the birth of a baby changes the world.

P: We come to celebrate with joy and wonder.

Celebrate the light that shines all around us.

P: We will sing and praise our most wondrous God.

Let us kneel before the Christ child, who makes God's promises come true.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
Hector, Heather, Sophia and Benjamin Barrera

MUSIC **Rejoice with Exceeding Great Joy** All
(See Music Sheet)

MUSIC **Go, Tell It on the Mountain** All

Refrain
Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**INTRODUCTION OF THE SERVICE AND
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE:** Emmalyn Cricket McCall

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

(PASTOR AND CONGREGATION)

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life, include Cricket now before you in your care, and surround her with a community of love and forgiveness?

We will.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend Cricket to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.

As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Karen Hoyt

LORD'S PRAYER All

Our Father, which 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, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever.

LOVE OFFERING FOR AGAPE MINISTRY

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:1-20 (KJV) Rev. Hoyt

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

MUSIC **Emmanuel Hallowed Manger Ground**
Clark Wright and McEver Singers

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Rev. Dr. Bruce

SERMON **No Keeping Out**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Hoyt

Therefore, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanks-giving, which we offer in union with Christ's sacrifice for us, as a living and holy surrender of ourselves.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Bruce

Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine we may know the presence of the living Christ; be one body in him, cleansed by his blood; faithfully serve him in the world; and look forward to his coming in final victory.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Hoyt: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Rev. Hoyt: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Rev. Hoyt: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Rev. Dr. Bruce: Father, at this blessed Christmas feast we give you thanks and praise. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You make us in your image; and though we all have sinned and fallen short of your glory, you loved the world so much you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior.

Rev. Hoyt: As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so from suffering and death you raised him to bring us life. Therefore, with the angels who sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join in the song of unending praise, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Rev. Dr. Bruce: " Truly holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus. As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so on the night he offered himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC

Silent Night, Holy Night

All

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 Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Hoyt

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Loving Christ Loving People Helping People Love Christ

Welcome! We're Glad You're Here!



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, filthy rich, dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Methodist than Asbury, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion;" we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts and you!

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