



Christmas Eve 2017

Sunday, December 24, 11:00 A.M.

“Light shines in the darkness”

This year I am really glad that Christmas comes at the end of the year. We need to be reminded again of the “good news of great joy for all people.” “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.” It seems this has been a year of relentless tragedy in our world. From natural disasters, floods, hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes, to the violent attacks on the innocent in churches, concerts, and communities by people overcome by that very darkness of hate. We need to be reminded again that there is a light that still shines in the darkness. That light is Jesus the savior of the world, the gift of the Father’s love for us. It is Emmanuel, God with us and for us.

Today we gather for worship on Christmas Eve to remember that “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son...” We gather to remember with humble and thankful hearts that the baby born in Bethlehem whose birth changed history, grew up to be the Savior who gave his life as a ransom for sin. As we gather for worship in this season of gifts, I am always reminded of the final verse of the carol, “In the Bleak Midwinter”; “What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what can I give him: give my heart.” To give Him my heart, maybe I first need to ask Him to give us something. In the words of the Psalmist, “give me an undivided heart, that I may revere your name.”

We pray this Christmas will bring peace, hope, joy, and love. Merry Christmas from your staff at Wesley Monumental UMC, you are a gift to us.

Ben

Christmas Eve 2017
Sunday, December 24, 11:00 A.M.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE Nele Ewaldsen, pianist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please register your attendance in the booklets found in the pew, and remember to silence your cell phones and refrain from flash photography during the service. If needed, hearing devices, several seat cushions, and large print hymnals are available in the Narthex.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR Addison Dunn

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES The Acolytes

OPENING VOLUNTARY Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
Mary Margaret Carroll and Nele Ewaldsen, pianists

INTROIT Carol of the Bells M. Leontovich

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH & CHRIST CANDLE

The Light of Love
Lori Miller, Whitney Butler, Asher Sigmon,
Ben and Luke Whitaker

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.”

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 246 Joy to the World ANTIOCH

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** No. 880 The Nicene Creed
James P. Owens

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!”

(Dismissal for Children’s Worship)

Children ages 3 - PreK leave through the door on the right side of the sanctuary to go to Preschool Children’s Worship in Room 205. Children in grades K -3rd leave through the door on the left side of the sanctuary to go to Elementary Children’s Worship in the Fellowship Hall.

MORNING PRAYER Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

* **GOSPEL READING** Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-2

SERMON “Signs” Ben Martin

INVITATION AND CONFESSION

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

All pray in silence.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: 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!

Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God! Amen!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

James P. Owens

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Festival Sanctus

John Leavitt

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra
gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of Hosts.
Hosanna in the highest.
Full are heaven and earth of
glory thy.
Hosanna in the highest.

* PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* HYMN OF RESPONSE

DIX

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to thee, our heavenly King.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

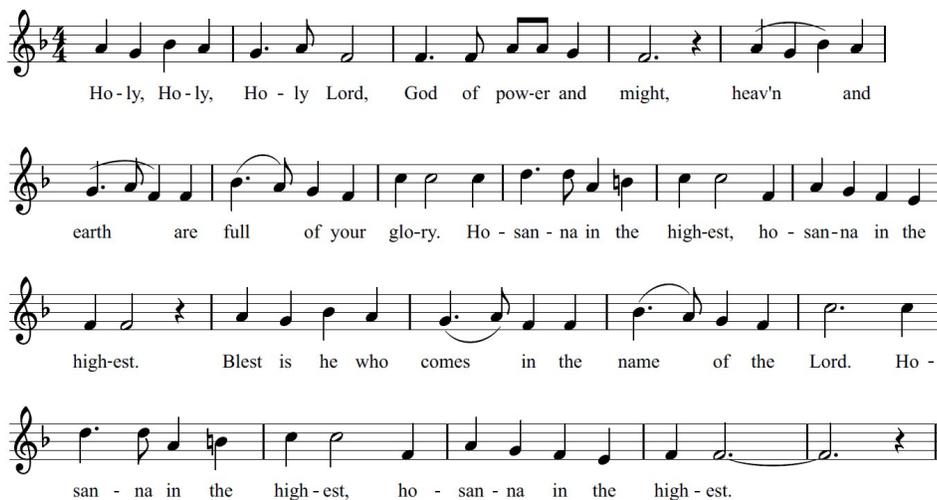
Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to our Lord and God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth...

And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and
earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the
high-est. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor: Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

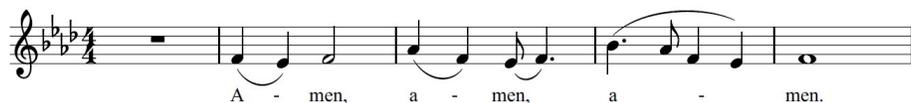
And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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 that 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; For ever.
Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

(Gluten free bread is available. Please indicate your preference by raising your hand.)

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Today's communion offering is for the Pastor's Discretionary fund which helps those in need in our community. If you would like to participate, please leave your offering in the chancel rail when you come to be served.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Silent Night	arr. Eric Nelson
Still, Still, Still	Norman Luboff
In the Bleak Midwinter	Harold Darke
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella	arr. Stephen Mager

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

* LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

* HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night STILLE NACHT

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.

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!

* BENEDICTION

(You may place candles in the box at each exit.)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Christmas Toccata Kiyo Watanabe

* *Please stand as you are able.*

