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**Friday, December 24, 2021**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

**Bethlehem Safe Indoor Worship Guidelines**

- Masks = You decide what's best for you, your loved ones and those around you.
- Remain 6 feet apart from members outside of your family
- An offering plate will be available in a central location
- Please wait for an usher to dismiss you after the service.
- For those who wish to congregate, you are asked to do so outside
- Please stay home if you or a member of your family is not feeling well.
- Scrip will be available for purchase on the first and third Sundays. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

**Lessons and Carols: A Traditional Candlelight Service**

**Christmas Eve**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Laura Mueller

\*OPENING LITANY:

One: The people who walked in darkness.

**All: Sometimes we walk in darkness.**

One: have seen a great light.

**All: We live in darkness and in light.**

One: those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them has light shines.

**All: Whenever we find ourselves in the night, God's morning dawns anew.**

One: You have increased the nation's joy.

**All: The people rejoice at the time of harvest.**

One: for the yoke of their burden you have broken.

**All: The pressure, the tension, the anxiety of the past fade as we gather in this place.**

One: For a child has been born for us.

**All: God's child has come to be with us –**

One: One who will rule with peace and justice forever and ever,

**All: And through whose love we are all children of God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**O God, we come filled with excitement to hear the Christmas story again, on this holiest of nights. Open wide the crowded inns of our hearts, that we may see with new eyes, what happened that night so long ago. Open our ears that we may hear your voice in the voices of those around us. Fill us with wonder and mystery that we may experience your presence with us now, we pray. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over!

We have lit four candles that remind us about waiting in hope and peace and joy and love.

**All: These candles remind us that God promises to be with us, to comfort us, to help us rejoice, and to teach us to love.**

One: Tonight we light one more candle, and we call it the Christ candle.

This candle reminds us of all God has done for us.

God fills us with good things, like hope and peace and joy and love.

God is faithful to us. God is with us, now and always.

**All: O God, come, lead us through our lives.**

**Give us courage to spread your light in the world. Amen.**

HYMN #108 vs. 1-2

“The First Noel”

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Will Mathes

HYMN # 133 vs. 1-2

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Second Reading

Psalm 96

HYMN # 140 vs. 1-2

“God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen”

Third Reading

Titus 2:11-14

Steve Deignan

HYMN # 121 vs. 1-2

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Jane Umland

SOLO

“Mary, Did you Know”

Laura Mueller and Polly Jeanty

Fifth Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Marie Mueller

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Sixth Reading

Luke 2:15–20

Brenna Koppenhaver

HYMN #125 vs. 1-2

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

**To God, all glorious heav’nly Light  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen**

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God who gives life to all things, and richly provides us with everything, use  
these our offerings to spread your light of wonder and peace in the world.  
Amen.**

HYMN #128 vs. 1-2

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

\*CAROL

*“Silent Night! Holy Night!”*

(During the HYMN we will light our candles. Choir will sing the verse in German)

**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**

Hoder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

**Silent Night Holy Night  
Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams form Your holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord at thy birth  
Jesus Lord at thy birth**

\*\*CHOIR SINGS

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schlaft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar

A READING FROM OUR DAY

“It is Not Over” Ann Weems

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Brahms Lullaby”

Will Mathes

\*DECLARATION

John 1:1-4

\*CAROL #107 vs. 1-2

*“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”*

POSTLUDE

***(Please wait to be dismissed by the ushers. Thank you.)***

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### **Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

#### **Joys:**

Birth of Raegan Michael Hoeffner- daughter of Tyler & Tia Hoeffner – Grandparents Joe and Doreen Schmidt

#### **Families who have lost loved ones:**

Tim Nohl

#### **Those struggling with health issues:**

Louie Bowe

Elizabeth Loose

Jane Markelz

Steve Rumpff

Everett Henning  
Helen Henning  
Dale and Darlene Horneck  
Hattie Lucille  
Warren Fidlin

Mother of Dawn Wirtz  
Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)  
Macullen Schnell  
Olivia Marie  
Jessica Horneck

**Those unable to worship with us:** Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer, Leah Henning – Deployed to Japan

### 2021 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

**Elder – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family**

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

## DECEMBER'S JINGLE CHANGE OFFERING SUPPORTS THE CHRISTMAS FUND.

“The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.”  
There will be no printed envelopes this year. Donate larger gifts at <https://www.pbucc.org/christmas-fund-home>

Leah Henning has been deployed to Japan. Send cards and letters to:  
(Regular US postage rates)

Sgt. Leah Henning  
31<sup>st</sup> MEU CE S-3  
Unit 35621  
FPO, AP 96385-5621

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**All 2021 church organization financial reports are due Sunday, January 2 at 5pm.**

**Please email your report as a Word Document to Traci**

**at [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)**

**Annual Reports will be distributed before church on Sunday, January 9th  
and Sunday, January 16th.**

***Bethlehem UCC's Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 23rd following the  
9:30am Worship. Please plan to attend.***