

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5 p.m. Tuesday 24 December 2024

Christmas Eve

Prelude and Lighting of Altar Candles

ENTRANCE

(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew)

Opening Scriptures:

Leader:

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door,

I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.
(Revelation 3:20)

People:

**He was in the world, and the world came into being through
him; yet the world did not know him.**

**He came to what was his own, and his own people did not
accept him.**

**But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God. *(John 1:10, 12)***

Leader: Who are the children of God?

People:

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
(Romans 8:14)

Leader: To what does the Spirit of God guide us?

People: **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. *(Matthew 22:37, 39)*

Leader:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

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generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. *(Galatians 5:22-23a)*

Leader: What good is it, brothers and sisters,
if you say you have faith but do not have works?

Can faith save you?

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,
and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm
and eat your fill,"

and yet you do not supply their bodily needs,
what is the good of that?

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. *(James 2:14-17)*

Leader and people, together:

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;**

Amen.

*All sing: 229 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Lighting of ALL the Advent candles

Response: 2090 *(Verse 5 only)* "Light the Advent Candle"

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalter: 815 *(Sung response: Joy to the world,
the Lord is come)* Psalm 96

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

*Carol: 238 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

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Sermon

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

Congregational 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 us 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.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 12ff)

(All are welcome)

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Carol: 239 "Silent Night"

*Dismissal with Blessing:

God bless you, brothers and sisters.

May Christ keep us in the faith

At all times, in all places, now and forever.

Amen.

***Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude /Going Forth**

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing.

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