

December 24, 2020

8:00p Service



Christmas Eve

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (TLB)

WELCOME & OPENING

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2

HYMN "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" 204

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Baszner Family

John 1:1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:6-9

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:10-14

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

ADVENT HYMN "What Child is This?" (vs. 1) 219

ADVENT PRAYER

All-loving God, break into our world and our hearts again. Magnify your love in us until it overflows to our neighbors. Renew our faith to relive the wonder of your love. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may shine the light of your compassionate love. Come, God of Love, come. **Amen**

The Story

READINGS Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)
Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

CAROL "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" 234

READING Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)

CAROL "Little Drummer Boy"

READING Luke 2:8-14 (NRSV)

CAROL "Angels from the Realms of Glory" 220

READING Luke 2:15-20 (NRSV)

CAROL "O Holy Night"

GOD'S CHARGE

L: In the quiet of the night, We accept a gift: A personal act of faith.

P: **We Receive God's charge upon us.**

In the quiet of the night we are changed forever by our God and Savior Christ Jesus, our Lord, who is God with us, now and forever. Amen.

MESSAGE "The Light of the World"

Rev. Rusty Belcher

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

We come to this table as a people unprepared. Our world is as unready for the coming of Emmanuel as was the crowded town of Bethlehem.

We are as un-attuned to the eternal as the sleeping shepherds in the field.

Our expectations are as unclear as those of the travelers from the East.

Though we are unprepared, though our lives are unworthy offerings, God has forgiven our sins and offered us newness of life through Jesus Christ. This is the grace of God in which we participate at this table. Come, share the feast.

Prayer of Humble Access

Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. **Amen.**

Holy God, creator of heaven and earth, we joyfully thank you and praise your name. You formed the universe in your wisdom, and created all things by your power. You set us in families on the earth to live with you in faith. We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine, and for the table you spread in the world as a sign of your love for all people.

You alone are God, and we join ourselves with all your faithful beyond all time and space, and join in praising your holy name.

We praise you, Lord, for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us, full of grace and truth. He made you known to all who receive him. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick, befriended sinners, and showed us the way to fulfillment in partnership with other people. Two by two he sent his disciples to extend your promise of friendship and love, and two by two he calls us still to work in your spirit of love. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes again in glory, we will celebrate victory with him throughout eternity at his heavenly table.

Prayer of Consecration

And so, in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and cup and give you thanks and praise. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, and all who share this feast, may be one with Christ and he with us. Fill us with eternal life, that with joy we may be his faithful people until we feast with him in glory. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen

Serving and Receiving

GIVING MUSIC "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

Ways to give-

ONLINE at www.fumcwq.org BY TEXT 786-627-6995 BY MAIL at 125 N. Lakeview Ave, WG, FL, 34787

Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church of Winter Garden.

CLOSING WORDS

CAROL "Silent Night"

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BENEDICTION

Go in peace! Serve the God of Light and hope!