

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2018

Prelude

In the Heavens Shone a Star

Kalinga melody, arr. Navarro, 2010

"From the angels shepherds heard
the good tidings of his birth,
and to Bethlehem they sped
to behold his manger bed."

Jonathan Malicsi and Ellsworth Chandlee, 20th century

* Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning the Holy One said "Let there be light!"

People: And behold, there was light! And the light was very good!

L: Today, the Holy One is still speaking, saying; "Let there be light!"

P: And again, the light is very good!

L: Out of emptiness and darkness, a Divine Spark brings-forth Life!

P: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it!

L: Tonight, as we bask in the glow of candle light,

ALL: We rejoice that the Light of Christ is with us and within us!

* The Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of Angels.

Refrain: O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him.

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. [Refrain]

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Divine Source of Light and Life, as the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem, so we have traveled here tonight - excited, expectant, perhaps a bit skeptical, yet also hopeful and truly grateful. May the words of Sacred Scripture and song fill our hearts, so that we might treasure and ponder the Christ child anew. Grant us a vision of a world filled with your compassion and grace; and inspire us to help make that vision a reality. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle [from *Isaiah* Chapter 9]

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: Those who dwelt in the land of deep shadow, upon them has a light shined!

L: For unto us a child is born,

P: Unto us a Son is given.

L: And the government shall be upon his shoulders;

P: And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace!

L: On this holy night, a light shines through the darkness.

P: It is the Light of Christ; it is the Light of Love!

L: Illuminate our lives, O Holy One, that we may receive you with joy!

All: Fill us with Your Spirit, that your Holy Light may shine in us and through us!

The Reading	Luke 2:1-7	
The Carol	O Little Town of Bethlehem	#133
The Reading	Luke 2:8-14	
The Carol	Angels We Have Heard on High	#125
The Reading	Luke 2:15-20	
The Carol	What Child is This	#148
The Word	<i>I'm Afraid...Not!</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
Choir Anthem	Born on Christmas Day	Andes/Bryson/Buchanan
The Offering	UCC Christmas Fund	
Offertory	In the Bleak Midwinter	Holst

The Offertory

We praise the Babe this time of year,
Sing carols to him whom we hold dear.
Our love, His power we now proclaim,
We send our gifts in Jesus's name. Amen!

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Still, Still, Still

Austrian carol, arr. Ehret

The Blessing

**** Sharing the Light of Christ***

Musical Offering

O Holy Night
[Kate Klonowski, soprano]

Adam

***The Carol**

Silent Night

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**

* **The Carol**

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
Let earth receive its King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

The Postlude

Love Has Come

French melody, arr. Myers

OUR OFFERING TONIGHT will go to The UCC **Christmas Fund**. This fund is used by the United Church of Christ Board of Pensions to assist retired clergy and lay workers, and to support an emergency fund for UCC pensioners, retired lower-income clergy, and lay employees. THANK YOU for your generous gifts tonight, and throughout the entire year!