

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Light of the World

2022 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @6:30 p.m.

May the beauty of the sanctuary and the heavenly strains of music prepare our hearts and minds for holy worship.

(* Denotes: Please stand if you are able)

*Christmas Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Gerald Gammon

Lighting of the Advent Candles

***People:* God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night (to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.**

***People:* Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light.
Glory be to God and peace on earth
Christ is born! Alleluia!**

Thanks to all of those who purchased poinsettias. Please remember to take your poinsettia (s) home after the service tonight.

- ◆ Joanne Bode in memory of Bode & Conklin family and parents & aunts
- ◆ Tammy Boyle in memory of Nicole Boyle
- ◆ Beverly DeSavigny in memory of husband, Jim
- ◆ Junior & Karen Fumerola in memory of Wamsley and Fumerola family members who have passed away
- ◆ Judy Fabian in memory of all that we have lost
- ◆ Gerry & Marian Gammon in memory of our family
- ◆ John Kunkel in memory of his wife, Becky, and in memory of the Jones & Kunkel families
- ◆ Bill & Linda Paxson in memory of Florence & Beth Teitsworth
- ◆ John & Debbie Wimer



*Pastor: Rev. Gerald Gammon
Director of Music: Karen Fumerola
Guest Organist: Barbara Edwards*

*Unison Prayer

Leader: Let us Pray . . .

People: Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of Your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of Your Son, Jesus Christ, even as He humbled Himself to share our humanity, amen.

The Promise

Scripture **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7** Ron Schoch
Carol #250 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Announcement

Scripture **Matthew 1:18-25** Sharon Longworth
Carol #262 “Away in a Manger”
Duet #285 “O Holy Night” *Adolph Adam*
Duet: Barbara Edwards & Donny Longworth

The Adoration

Scripture **Luke 2:15-20** Tara Fumerola
Carol #277 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

The Incarnation

Scripture **John 1:1-14** Donny Longworth
Carol #278 “Angels We Have Heard on High”
Choir “Peace, Peace *Richard & Sylvia Powell*
Flute: Tara Fumerola

Christmas Offering

Rev. Gerald Gammon

Offertory

“Star of the East”

Amanda Kennedy

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord’s Prayer (debt and debtors)

Meditation

Rev. Gerald Gammon

Silent Reflection

Candle lighting (*Quiet organ music*)

(Please remember to keep lit candles upright)

*Carol “Silent Night! Holy Night!” (Choir will sing in German first)

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

Silent/Exit

(Extinguish candles)

(Extinguished candles may be placed in baskets in rear of sanctuary.)

On behalf of the Gammon family and the staff of the First United Church of Christ we wish you all a very merry and blessed Christmas.