

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Light of the World

2024 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

“Silent Night”  
(Organ/Piano)

*Franz Gruber*

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 Herman & Pauline Bode, Kathryn Vugrincic and Aunt Esther Clark., Aunt Dorothy Bode, Aunt Net Uncle Al Conklin

Tammy Boyle & David & Riley in memory of Nicole Boyle

Cheryl Copeland in memory of Nathaniel Parries & Marguerite Parries

Judy Fabian in honor of those who give of themselves

Junior & Karen Fumerola of our parent, Quirico & Jessie Fumerola and Winston & Margaret Wamsley

Gerry & Marian Gammon in memory our family, parents, & brother

Phil & Diana Graham in memory of our parents and family

John Kunkel in memory of Rebecca Kunkel, Kunkel family, The Swinford Family, and J. R. Jones Family

Barb Lewis

Virginia Neff in memory of Chris Neff, Gary Neff, and parents, Carl & Mary Ellen Ward

Bill & Linda Paxson in memory of Flo & Beth Teitsworth

Schoch Family in memory of Bill & Sue Schoch

Homer Wiland in memory of Angie Wiland

John & Debbie Wimer

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

\*Unison Prayer

Pastor: 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

<u>Scripture</u>		<b>Isaiah 9:2-7</b>	Judy Fabian
<u>Carols</u>	#241	“Arise, Shine”	
	#244	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	
<u>Choir</u>		“A Tiny Child Will Come”	<i>Don Besig</i>

The Announcement

<u>Scripture</u>		<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b>	Ron Schoch
<u>Carols</u>	#243	“Emmanuel”	
	#250	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	
	#278	“Angels We Have Heard on High (1, 3, 4)”	

The Adoration

<u>Scripture</u>		<b>Luke 2:15-20</b>	Sharon Longworth
<u>Choir</u> (Riley Davis-drums)		“A Simple Stable”	<i>Don Besig</i>
<u>Carol</u>	#262	“Away in a Manger”	
<u>Solo</u>		“Holy Is the Newborn Child”	Bill Paxson
<u>Carol</u>	#281	“What Child Is This?”	

The Incarnation

<u>Scripture</u>		<b>John 1:1-14</b>	Debbie Wimer
<u>Carol</u>	#277	“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”	
<u>Duet</u>		“O Holy Night”	Barb Edwards & Judy Fabian

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

Duet

“Mary Did You Know?”

Barbara Edwards and Don Longworth

Candle lighting (*Quiet organ music*) (Please remember to keep lit candles upright)

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

Pastor will sing (English)

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.

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.

Exit Out Front Door and Line up On Front Walk

\*Benediction

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.

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**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.**