

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**The Light of the World**

**2023 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”

*Franz Grüber*

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 the Bode and Conklin families  
Tammy Boyle & David & Riley in memory of Nicole Boyle  
Keith & Melanie Burger in memory of our parents  
Judy Fabian in memory of all we’ve lost  
Junior & Karen Fumerola of our parents  
Gerry & Marian Gammon in memory our loved ones  
Phil & Diana Graham in memory of our parents  
Bill & Linda Paxson in memory of Flo & Beth Teitsworth  
Schoch Family in memory of Bill & Sue Schoch  
John & Debbie Wimer



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

<u>Scripture</u>		<b>Isaiah 9:2, 6-7</b>	Judy Fabian
<u>Carols</u>	#241	“Arise, Shine”	
	#249	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	

The Announcement

<u>Scripture</u>		<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b>	Ron Schoch
<u>Carols</u>	#243	“Emmanuel”	
	#250	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	
<u>Solo</u>		“What Child Is This?”	Bill Paxson

The Adoration

<u>Scripture</u>		<b>Luke 2:15-20</b>	Sharon Longworth
<u>Carols</u>	#262	“Away in a Manger”	
<u>Choir</u>		“A Simple Stable	Don Besig

The Incarnation

<u>Scripture</u>		<b>John 1:1-14</b>	Debbie Wimer
<u>Carols</u>	#277	“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”	
	#278	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	

Christmas Offering

Rev. Gerald Gammon

Offertory “Away in a Manger”

J. E. Spilman

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!”

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

Exit (Extinguish candles)

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

Carol “Joy to the World”

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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.**