

*December 24, 2022*



**TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.**

*Matthew 1:22, ESV*



# Our Worship of God

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2022

Harris - 5:00pm.....Worship.....Lake Park - 7:00 pm

Welcome to Christmas Eve worship as we hear "good news of great joy": "unto you is born this day ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11, ESV)

Greetings/Announcements

Opening Hymn "Joy to the World" #246

**Candle Lighting**

**Candle of Hope:**

Leader: Centuries before the birth of Jesus, the people of God longed and waited for the Messiah. Prophets foretold his coming. We, too, remain in trust for his coming among us. We pray for the same holy Spirit that made the prophets stir our hearts to faith in God's world.

**People: In hope we light the first candle in the Advent wreath, the Prophecy candle.**

**Candle of Love:**

Leader: At his birth in Bethlehem, there was no room found for Jesus. The ruler of the Universe was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid to sleep in a manger. Remembering that we love only him because he first loved us, we pray that God would prepare for himself a place in our hearts.

**People: In love, we light the second candle in the Advent wreath, the Bethlehem candle.**

**Candle of Joy:**

Leader: Shepherds heard the message of the Angel. They rejoice at the good news that the savior was born and were the first to tell others the good news of Jesus. Like the shepherds, we are called to be witnesses to Christ. We pray that God will give us the boldness to speak.

**People: In peace we light the fourth candle in the Advent wreath, the Angle candle.**

Please fill out our provided Guest Information cards and place in the offering plate. Feel free to contact the church office for more information about our Church Family and how you can become a member or more involved.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Rhonda Miller, Rosie Christ, Amanda Bondhus, Ellen Wolf, Claire Yaw (Niece of Marie Matthiesen), Rick Wilson & Family, Allen & Loretta Rowe, Family of Deb Hellinga for passing of her father, Cole Barden (Nephew of Daryl Meyer), Pastor Sedar & family, Our Church Family, District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula and Bishop Laurie.



Going to be alone on Christmas Day?  
Family unable to come home?  
We would love to cook for you!

Join us for Christmas Dinner at the Lake Park UMC Fellowship Hall at noon on December 25th. 11:30 - 1:00

Gary & Judy Taber  
Matt & Lisa Carstensen  
Emma Niswander

Please let us know if you're coming so we know how much food to prepare.  
Judy 712-330-3831 Gary 712-260-1318  
Matt 712-346-8312 Lisa 712-330-0967

**No Elementary or Adult Sunday School Dec. 25 and Jan. 1**

**Candle of Peace:**

Leader: Just as the angels announced peace and goodwill at the birth of Jesus — at the end of time, Christ will come with the Angels to usher in his eternal peace, in which he will reign forever and ever. We pray that his kingdom would come here and now, among us by faith.

**People: In peace, we light the fourth candle in the Advent wreath, the Angel candle.**

**Candle of Jesus' Birth:**

Leader: Rejoice and sing.

**People: A child is born!**

Leader: Sing of praise.

**People: For the prince of peace is in our midst.**

Leader: Rejoice and sing.

**People: Christ is born! Hallelujah. Amen.**

Hymn *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* #234

Opening Prayer

**God of love, choirs of Angels, sang to your glory on the night of Jesus' birth. Open our mouths to sing your praise, that we might join the heavenly chorus. As the shepherds left sheep in the fields, may we leave our cares behind, that we too may find the hope of our salvation in the Christ child. On this holiest of night, may our worship befit the prince of peace, who came to show us the depths of your love. Amen.**

Gloria Patri #70

**Glory be to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Men's Choir *"O Holy Night"*

**God promised the Messiah to his people:**

reading of Isaiah 7:13-15

reading of Isaiah 9:2-3,6

**Candle of Peace:**

Leader: Just as the angels announced peace and goodwill at the birth of Jesus — at the end of time, Christ will come with the Angels to usher in his eternal peace, in which he will reign forever and ever. We pray that his kingdom would come here and now, among us by faith.

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**The Prophecy is fulfilled, Mary is chosen to be Jesus' Mom:**

Reading of Luke 1:26-36

Hymn *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* #218

**Jesus is born:**

Reading of Luke 2:2-6

**The Good New is announced to the Shepherds and the world**

reading of Luke 2:9-14

**The Wise Men bring the gifts to Jesus:**

Reading of Matthew 2:1-11

Solo *"Mary, Did You Know"* Emma Niswander accompanied by  
Judy Taber on piano

Offering

**Prayer:**

**God of surprise and wonder, you came in a way no one expected. You came in weakness and vulnerability when we looked for you in power and might. As we worship you anew this night, open our hearts to those you came to save—incredibly, the least, and the lost. May the gifts we offer to your service continue the work you began in a manger so many years ago. Amen.**

Doxology #95

Meditation: I bring good news, presented by Pastor Sedar

Hymn *"Silent Night, Holy Night"* #239

Holding the candle

Spoken Benediction

Pastor: Rev. Sedar Shako

Musicians: Diane Duitsman

Ushers/Greeters: Scott & Jan Mitchell

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