Lessons, Carols, Candles & Communion

Worship Service

Sunday, December 24, 2019

@ 8:30 p.m.

*You are invited to stand, if able.
You are encouraged to read/sing the **bold** print.

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE: "Silent Night" (Franz Gruber, arr. Fred Bock) *Gerald Martindale*

WELCOME *Hewitt Holmes*

ADVENT WREATH: LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *Dave, Mary & Hannah Lord*

***CANDLE CAROL:** VU#6 "A Candle Is Burning" (v 5) AWAY IN A MANGER

GATHERING WORDS:

One: Come, good friends, come to Bethlehem!
All: **Come to Bethlehem and celebrate the new born child with Mary and Joseph.**
Female: Come and celebrate that God's symbol of love is tiny, helpless baby;
Male: Come to Bethlehem and sing praises with the Shepherds for what God has done.
One: Come to Bethlehem and fall silent in awe and wonder…(Silence)
Jesus is born, God's Word lives!
All: **Praise to God, Allelulia, Alleulia!** (David Sparks – Prayers to Share – Year A)

*** CAROL:** VU#59 "Joy to the World" (vv. 1&4) ANTIOCH

PRAYER:

We come to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph;
We sense their worry and frustration, for they are far from home.
We are out in the fields with the Shepherds;
We feel their awe and wonder as thy sky echoes with singing.
We hurry to Bethlehem with the excited shepherds;
We know for ourselves that salvation has come in a tiny child.
We go back with these humble persons to their flocks;
We are aware that though everything seems the same,
An earth-changing event has happened.
And we rejoice! Amen. (David Sparks – Prayers to Share – Year A)

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(sung using Traditional words with inclusive language)* VU, pg. 960

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The Prophecy of the Messiah:
Isaiah 9:1-7 & 11:1-9 - Richard Moffat

THE CHOIR: VU#64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vv. 1-2) ST LOUIS

The Prophecy of the Messiah:
Micah 5:2-4 - Richard Moffat

"See Amid The Winter's Snow" – *The Choir*

Congregation sings: O Come, All You Faithful (v. 1 and chorus)

SILENCE

The Coming of Jesus is Announced to Mary & Joseph:
Luke 1:26-38 - Robert Murdock

***CAROL:** VU#75 "While Shepherds Watched" (vv. 1-3) WINCHESTER OLD

Jesus is Born & Announced to the Shepherds:
Matthew 1:18-25a & Luke 2:8-16 - Robert Murdock

CAROLS: VU#46 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" (vv. 1-2) GENTLE MARY

WE CONTEMPLATE - CHRISTMAS

SILENCE

VU#37 "Gloria" GLORIA

The Magi Visit the Messiah:
Matthew 2:1-11 - Anne Snell

Jesus is Here – The Word Became Flesh:
John 1:1-5,10-13 - *Anne Snell*

"Light of the World" - *The Choir*

REFLECTION: "Christmas Love: The Story of God's Gift to Us" *Hewitt Holmes*

***CAROL:** VU#43 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (vv. 1-2) GO, TELL IT

WE SHARE AT CHRISTMAS

WE GIVE TO SHOW OUR LOVE

Offering Music: "There's a Song in the Air" (Karl Harrington arr. Dorothy Wells) GERALD MARTINDALE
*Offering Response: MV#191 "What Can I do?" WHAT CAN I DO?
*Offering Prayer *Hewitt Holmes*

O God, in Jesus you shared with us our very humanity
and known every earthly, mundane experience.
Grant that these offerings may enable us to share
the good news of your love and justice,
in our community and throughout the world.

(UCC Worship for All Seasons II – Selections from Gathering – Year A)

WE SHARE A HOLY MEAL AT CHRISTMAS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Hewitt Holmes & Richard Moffat - *Celebrants*

(Everyone is welcomed to participate in communion by intinction - there will be three stations at the front and one in the balcony. On the downstairs, please proceed to one of the stations as directed by the Usher(s), through the appropriate aisles and back through the side aisles. In the balcony, proceed to the rear to be served. Please eat as you are served)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Christ's love and light are born anew in us this evening.
May this illuminating light and inexhaustible love remain with us
as we share the peace with others.
The peace of Christ is born anew in you,
and in you as well.

(We greet each other and sing, We wish you a merry Christmas…)

WE LEAVE WITH THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

*** CAROL:** VU#67 "Silent Night" STILLE NACHT
(as we sing this carol, we will light the candles and turn off the main lights)

*COMMISSIONING:

God's joy is ours!
We will enjoy our Christmas.
God's friendship is clear!
We will deepen our friendships.
God's peace is without limits!
We will let go of our fears.
God's love is sure!
We will grow in love for one another in this Christmas.

(David Sparks – Prayers to Share – Year A)

POSTLUDE: "Variations on Sussex Carol" (English Caro arr. Raymond Haan) *Gerald Martindale*

(All music used and reproduced with permission, LicenSingOnline: #C2095)

USHERS: Marg Valad, Christine Bowman, Kim Money, Morgan Money, Frank & Sharon Crossley,

Rob Murdock, Reg & Cathey Battaglia, Mabel Peyer.

AUDIO/VISUAL: Terry Tizzard

WORSHIP LEADER: Rev. Hewitt Holmes, Minister
GUEST ORGANIST: Gerald Martindale
INTERIM CHOIR DIRECTOR: Sharon Saint

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