

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2016 • 7:00 pm



Prelude Steve Johnson

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Jim Penuel

*Call to Worship Rev. Jim Penuel

Leader: *We rejoice in Christ's birth, yet we often allow this busy season to rob us of the joy we have in our Savior.*

People: Forgive us, Lord, and restore to us the joy of your salvation!

Leader: *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,*

People: That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

Leader: *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!*

People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Leader: *Let the peoples praise you, O God;*

People: Let all the peoples praise you!

Leader: *Even after the season of Christmas ends, may our joy in Christ overflow in our lives now and for all eternity.*

People: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise for the gift of your Son!

*Opening Prayer Rev. Jim Penuel

Almighty God, you have favored us with the greatest gift ever given--your only begotten Son, light of true light, God of true God. May we never take this your gift for granted; may our songs of praise never fade, and may we treasure it in our hearts always and forever. Bless all of us here gathered in worship as well as our loved ones at home. May peace and joy ring in our hearts and reverberate through our communities tonight in the name of Jesus the new-born King. Amen.

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

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

(Refrain): O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

Epistle Reading Titus 2:11-14 (pg. 911) Ken & Nancy Libertini

Lighting of the Christ Candle Ken & Nancy Libertini

Advent Song: *Light the Christmas candles now, Sing of donkey, sheep and cow.
Birthday candles for the king, Let the Alleluias ring.
Candle, candle burning bright, shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Jim Penuel

The Lord's Prayer - *Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, And the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 (pg. 530)

*Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH #238

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

(Refrain): Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing,
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

4. See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise,
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

Anthem "O Holy Night" UUMC Chancel Choir

Gospel Reading Luke 2:8-20 (pg. 781)

Sermon Good News of Great Joy Rev. Jim Penuel

Praise Song "Offering"

1. Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star while angels sang to lowly shepherds.
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar, hoping to find the Child from Heaven.

Falling on their knees, they bowed before the humble Prince of Peace.

(Refrain): I bring an offering of worship to my King. No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due; O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

2. The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love; there is no shadow in Your presence.
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne, before the Holy One of Heaven.

It's only by Your blood, and it's only through Your mercy, Lord, I come. (Refrain 2x)

Tag: O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

Offering

Offertory

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Offertory Response

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

*Lighting Our Christmas Candles

"Silent Night"

UMH #239

*(Please be careful to dip the unlit candle into the lit candle when lighting your candle
so as to avoid being injured by the hot wax.)*

- 1. 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.*
- 2. 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!*
- 3. 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.*
- 4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

*Hymn

"Joy to the World"

UMH #246

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing.*
- 2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.*

*Hymn

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

UMH #251

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

*Benediction

Rev. Jim Penuel

*Postlude

Steve Johnson

***Pastor Jim, Amber & Lily and the staff of Union United Methodist Church
wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
We invite you to worship with us each and every Sunday.***



Union United Methodist Church

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Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2016



Senior Pastor: Rev. James Penuel III

District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa

Conference Bishop: Bishop Peggy Johnson

Ministers: All Baptized Christians