

December 24, 2018 – 7:00 pm

# CHRISTMAS EVE



ST. JOHN  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP
- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- LITURGY WRITTEN REV. THOM SCHUMAN
- **PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.**
- **\*PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.**

### WORDS TO CAROLS ON SCREEN

PRELUDE: **“A Festival of Carols”** Bill Galliford  
**Nancy Eisenhauer – Piano Sharon Banjavcic - Organ**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

CHOIR: **“Love’s Pure Light”** Joel Raney  
Congregational part - insert

### RESPONSIVE LITANY: **The Light of Christ**

One: For those walking in darkness,  
a new light has dawned.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the  
source of our everlasting hope.**

One: For those living in fear and dread  
a new light has dawned.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the  
source of our everlasting peace.**

One: For those living in hopelessness and despair,  
a new light has dawned.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the  
source of our everlasting joy.**

One: For those living in loneliness,  
a new light has dawned.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the  
source of our everlasting love.**

Tonight, we light all the candles as we celebrate the. . .

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: With eyes wide open and our ears on edge,

**MANY: we look for shepherds and listen  
for the songs of angels.**

One: In the light of winter's moon, with the Northern  
star lighting the way,

**MANY: we gather outside the door of a mystery,  
wondering if we dare go enter.**

One: With folks and friends we love,  
with strangers we have just met,

**MANY: we gather, becoming the holy family  
for this time and in this place.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION:**

This is the night we are reminded . . .

**\*UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS:**

**This was going to be the year, God of silent nights,  
when we were going to give away more than we spent,  
but we didn't. This was going to be the season when  
we spent more time with others, but we filled our  
calendars with meetings. This was going to be a truly  
holy season, but it just got too harried and hurried.**

**Forgive us, Love Gifter, and draw us closer to the  
Baby born not into wealth and power, but into poverty  
and weakness; to the One who loves unconditionally  
and welcomes all; to the One who drew near to us, so**

**we might be drawn to your heart – Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Lord.** *Silence is kept*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life;  
into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light;  
into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness  
and peace.

**Thanks be to God for the gift of the Baby of Bethlehem, who brings joy and peace to us in these moments of forgiveness and in all the days to come. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA: NCH 759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three- in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: “Your Light Has Come”** Jon Paige

**FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7** Lay Liturgist

**THE STORY: “THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS”**

Written by Herbert Brokering

**SERMON: “Believe”** Pastor Rosemary

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE:**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**PASTORAL PRAYER:** Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer. Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: Verse 3 "Away in a Manger"**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

**INVITATION TO SHARE:**

**OFFERTORY: "Birthday of a King Trilogy"**

**A. C. Whitworth**

**\*DOXOLOGY: NCH 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**Now, on this night of giftedness, remind us of those who struggle to put food on the table, to buy a single gift for their child, to wrap a warm blanket around a grandparent, so we might realize how blessed we are and share from our abundance. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*HOLY COMMUNION: (On Screen)**

CHOIR ANTHEM: **“Still, Still, Still”** Norman Luboff

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

**Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table of joy and wonder with the presence of your Son, born so long ago, to live and die and rise for us all. Thank you for your eternal love, the bread of life, that sustains all creation. Help us continue as your servants in this world, wherever we reside. Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING: **“Silent Night”** Led by Choir

As the light is passed, tilt your unlit candle to the lit candle to prevent wax dripping.

\*BENEDICTION:

\*SENDING HYMN: **“Joy to the World”**

\*POSTLUDE: **“The Joy of Christmas”** Lani Smith