



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2010

11:00 P.M.

MUSIC FOR THE HOLY NIGHT

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

"The Family Story Bible"

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hope looked down and saw despair.

"I will go there," said Hope.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there," said Love.

Joy looked down and saw sorrow.

"I will go there," said Joy.

Peace looked down and saw violence.

"I will go there," said Peace.

So the Harbinger of Hope, the King of Love, Gentle One of Joy, the Prince of Peace
came down and crept in beside us.

(adapted from "Cloth for the Cradle" -- Iona Community)

*CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

UMH 234

tune: MENDELSSOHN

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

*CAROL

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH 240

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1: 5-9

REFLECTIONS ON THE LIGHT

"This Little Light"

Rev. Birgitte T. French

THE CAROL

"Joy to the World"

UMH 246

tune: ANTIOCH





SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

CONFESSION

On this night, O God, we confess that we do not want to confess. We do not want to examine our hearts before you and admit to the dark places. We want you to warm us in candlelight, carols and communion. We desire soft light tonight; not the blinding shining of your glory that terrified the shepherds. We cannot stand in that light. God among us, forgive us. Help us hear your angel saying, "Do not be afraid." Flood our hearts with the light that drives out all our darkness. Straighten our backs and loose our timid tongues that we might sing, "Glory."

PARDON AND RESPONSE

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING (sung to "Away in a Manger")

**Lord, now in your mercy, your servants release.
As your word has promised, oh, grant us your peace.
Our eyes your salvation and mercy behold,
prepared for the nations as prophets foretold.
A light to the Gentiles, by whom they now see,
the glory of Israel, the Promised One be,
who lives now and ever, the heaven's bright Son,
with Father and Spirit, eternally one.**

SHARING THE LIGHT

On the Eve of Christmas... **hatred will vanish.**

On the Eve of Christmas... **the earth will flourish.**

On the Eve of Christmas... **war will be gone.**

On the Eve of Christmas... **love will be born.**

When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person... **it is Christmas.**

When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love... **it is Christmas.**

When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes... **it is Christmas.**

When the spirit of revenge dies in me... **it is Christmas.**

When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart... **it is Christmas.**

When I am embraced by the Light of God... **it is Christmas.**

*CAROL

"Silent Night"

tune: STILLE NACHE

*BENEDICTION

*THE BLESSING

May the Lord of Light and Joy be with you,
And also with you.

*POSTLUDE

**You are invited to stand as able.*

UMH-United Methodist Hymnal



ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Join us on Christmas Day for a pot-luck breakfast, 10:00 a.m. and casual Worship, 10:50 a.m.

New Years Day Services, Jan. 1, 2012, 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.